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College and School News

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) was host to the second annual School for Town and Country Ministers, March 12-24, to discuss rural community life in relation to the church. This annual conference was jointly sponsored by the National Home Mission Council of North America and Lincoln.

The second annual Farmers Conference was held at the university March 22-23; and the sixteenth annual session of the National Association of Deans of Women and Advisers to Girls in Negro Schools met March 28-30.

Under the sponsorship of the Cora F. Winchell Home Economics club, the home economics department, in March, presented a dramatic sketch titled "Careers in Home Economics."

Observation of religious emphasis week was held the week of March 26. A recent visitor at the university was Miss Mary Howard, traveling secretary for the World Student Service Fund.

A Negro newspaper week program was sponsored by the school of journalism; and a debate on compulsory military training, by the department of sociology.

Dr. Sidney J. Reedy, professor of education, has had two articles accepted for publication by nationally-known educational journals. "Is Negro Teacher Education Functional?" appeared in *Educational Administration and Supervision* and *The Journal of Negro Education* carried in its spring issue "A Comparative Study of Principles Controlling Graduate Work in Certain White and Negro Institutions."

VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE was host in February to an all-college conference on current religious and social problems. Guest speaker was Dr. Merrill B. McFall, minister of the First Methodist church, Bloomington, Indiana.

Two outstanding concerts were given recently at SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE by Marian Anderson and Marion Jackson Downs respectively.

The Hon. Frances P. Bolton, congresswoman from Ohio and a trustee of the institute, delivered the Founder's Day address at TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE April 8. This is the first time a woman has been founder's day speaker.

Beginning June 7, and continuing through July 12, WILEY COLLEGE will be host to the Fourth Cooperative Community Educational Workshop under the direction of Dr. J. Irving E. Scott, dean at Wiley. Sponsored jointly by the seven senior Negro colleges of Texas—Wiley, Bishop, Tillotson, Prairie

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KNOXVILLE COLLEGE worked out a program of active participation in the 1945 campaign of the United Negro College Fund.

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE announces that fifteen students made the dean's list during the first semester of the year. Thirteen of these students are from Delaware.

The third annual Delaware State College Farm and Home Conference was held at the college March 24. Theme of the conference was "Freedom from Want for Farm Families of Delaware." President Howard L. Gregg initiated this conference over three years ago and in this year's planning he was ably assisted by Mrs. Ruth M. Lewis, director of home economics, and Claude E. Tellis, acting director of agriculture and chairman of the division of vocational education.

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE reports fifty-seven honor students for the first semester of 1944-45. Heading the list of fifteen seniors is Prima L. Bryson. Ruth H. Wilson heads the twelve juniors; Martha A. Gover, the fifteen sophomores; and Roberta R. LeVarr, the fifteen freshmen.

In March the CLARK COLLEGE band, under the direction of Waymon A. Carver, gave a concert to an appreciative audience in the Davage auditorium.

STORER COLLEGE announces thirteen students on its dean's list for the first semester of 1944-45—one senior, four juniors, seven sophomores, and one freshman. The students are Roland Harper, Winchester, Va.; Marion V. Johnson, Langhorne, Va.; Agnes Stevens, Clifton Forge, Va.; Ethel Cowherd, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Ella B. Johnson, Waynesboro, Va.; Mary K. Newsome, Elkins, W. Va.; Annette Steward, Charles Town, W. Va.; Vera H. Clark, Clifton Forge, Va.; Geraldine Dashiell, Fruitland, Md., Betty J. Daniels, Elkins, W. Va.; James H. Green, Charles Town, W. Va.; Madlyn Minor, Craigsville, Va.; Mary Rogers, Clifton Forge, Va.

Dr. Edgar J. Fisher, assistant director of the Institute of International Education, delivered the principal address at the dedication of the recently opened International Student Center at FISK UNIVERSITY. Miss Margaret S. Campbell, donor of the center, was also on the program.

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One feature of the sixteenth annual Festival of Music and Art held at the university April 26-28 was the seminars on education, colonial administration, and other matters of mutual interest to the peoples of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas. Among the experts who led the seminars were Nnodu J. Okongwu, educator, foreign office of Nigeria; Dr. H. H. Wieschhoff, chairman of committee on African studies, University of Pennsylvania; Clovis Charlot, journalist, lawyer, teacher, Haiti; Dr. Sol Tax, research associate, department of anthropology, University of Chicago; and Dr. Mark H. Watkins, visiting professor of anthropology, University of Chicago.

Ten student nurses received their caps in the fourth annual capping exercises held in the DILLARD UNIVERSITY chapel March 15. Guest speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Mabel K. Staupers, executive secretary, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

During their tenth anniversary celebration, March 22-24, The Dillard Players' Guild gave Uncle Tom a fair and impartial trial and sentenced him to be banished forever from the American stage. Along with the trial was issued a proclamation for a new Negro theatre calling for an honest and sincere portrayal of Negro life and character on the stage, complete integration of Negroes in all theatrical unions, and better opportunities for study and training of future actors and technicians by increased emphasis on drama in our colleges and universities. The trial of Uncle Tom was prepared by Randolph Edmonds, director, and a committee from the Players' Guild.

The Guild also presented a special production of "The Emperor Jones" and a one-act play, "The Shape of Wars to Come," by Randolph Edmonds.

In the "10th Anniversary Program" the Guild gets out an interesting booklet of line-drawings with symbolic pictures of the plays given by the organization during the period 1935-1945.

Dr. Jerome Davis, educator and author, opened the spring series of the HOWARD UNIVERSITY forum March 28. Other speakers in the series were Erika Mann, lecturer and correspondent, April 4; Ely Culbertson, author and lecturer, April 11; and Max Lerner, correspondent for *PM*, April 18.

Annual survey of enrollments in Negro colleges and universities, conducted by Dr. Martin D. Jenkins of the department of education and reported in the spring issue of the *Journal of Negro Education*, reveals a striking increase in the number of students attending Negro institutions of higher education during the current school year. Ninety-seven institutions report an increase of twenty-seven percent over the same term of last year. The survey further reveals that an appreciable number of discharged war veterans are returning to the colleges for

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Atlanta University held its fourth annual exhibition of the works of Negro artists in the university library in March. The show featured oil paintings, water colors, sculpture, and prints from approximately seventy-five artists, ten of whom were awarded cash prizes. The $300 International Print Society Award for the best portrait or figure painting went to John Wilson of Boston, Mass., already winner of three previous awards offered by the university. Three hundred and fifty dollars in sculpture awards went to two New York sculptors. The top award of $250 offered by the International Print Society went to Sgt. William E. Artis for his head in plaster titled "African Youth."

The Harold Jackman Collection of printed and pictorial materials on the Negro has been on view in the foyer of the university library. The collection now numbers 900 items made up of books, manuscripts, photographs, theatre programs, magazines, and pamphlets on the contemporary American Negro.

Among recent speakers at Atlanta have been Dr. Louis Wirth, dean of the social sciences at the University of Chicago, and Dr. Syud Hossain, special lecturer in Oriental civilization at the University of California.

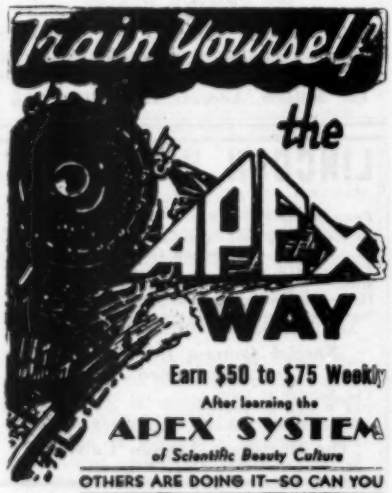
The university announces three workshops for teachers from southern colleges this summer to be sponsored by the Cooperative Negro College Study and the Secondary School Study of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for Negroes. The English workshop under the direction of Dr. Lou LaBrant will be held at New York university July 2-August 10; the group in mathematics will be held at Ohio State university under the direction of Dr. Harold Fawcett.

Founder's Day at Spelman College was celebrated April 11. Dr. Horace Mann Bond, president of Fort Valley State College, was the principal speaker.

Miss Bessie Helena Mayle, soprano and a graduate of Spelman, gave a joint recital with Harvey Huggins, baritone, at the college in March.

Four recent graduates of the Atlanta University School of Social Work have been placed in various social work positions. Miss Clarice V. Helm, a 1945 mid-year graduate, as a case worker with the Children's Service Bureau of the Cleveland, Ohio, Humane Society; Miss Dorothy L. Johnson, who completed her work the first semester of 1945, as a case worker with the Family Consultation Service of Wichita, Kansas; Miss Vivian L. Sloan, 1945 mid-year graduate, as director of adult activities with the Phyllis Wheatley branch of the Indianapolis, Ind., YWCA; and J. Albert Brocco, a 1945 graduate, as industrial secretary of the Kansas City, Mo., Urban League.

Forrester B. Washington, director of the Atlanta University School of Social Work recently spent a week in Detroit, Mich., setting up the drive organization for the United Negro College Fund. He was also



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chief speaker at the Health Institute for Negro Educators sponsored by the New Orleans Tuberculosis Association.

Annual observance of religious emphasis week was held at MOREHOUSE COLLEGE the week beginning March 11. Leaders were Dr. William Stuart Nelson, dean of the school of religion at Howard, and Rev. John Paul Pack, pastor of the First Christian church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

HAMPTON INSTITUTE "co-eds" observed their eleventh annual Women's Day April 21. Mrs. Estelle Massey Riddle was the principal speaker. Preliminary arrangements for the annual National and Inter-American Music Week to be held May 6-12 have been announced by Miss Irene F. Sanders, head of the music department.

A recent announcement in the *Hampton Script*, student newspaper, lists a total of seventy-two students, seventeen men and fifty-five women, on the first semester honor list at the college.

Recent speakers at the college have been Dr. Benjamin Mays, president of Morehouse college; Dr. George S. Counts, noted educator; and Sterling A. Brown, well-known poet and teacher. The fifty-two-voice Camp Hill Chorus will give a concert at the college May 11. This group recently captured first place in the national army-wide recorded audition contest.

In March the college mourned the death of two of its out-standing alumni, the late John L. Charity of Richmond, Va., and Thomas N. Roberts of Tuskegee Institute. Both men were prominent in the field of agriculture.

Dr. Viktor Lowenfeld, head of the art department at the college, has announced the annual art scholarship competition of the college. Entries must be mailed to the art department at Hampton not later than May 10. Open to high school graduates and college students, three $200 scholarships will be awarded for study in art at Hampton Institute during 1945-46. All winners must meet the general requirements for admission to the college.

In March Dr. B. A. Turner, professor of vocational education in the college, announced a plan to raise one million dollars by popular subscription to aid worthy youths to secure an education. The plan was announced in connection with publication of Dr. Turner's pamphlet, *From a Plow to a Doctorate—So What?*

Dean R. O'Hara Lanier has resigned after five years at the college to take a position as administrative assistant to Richard R. Brown, assistant chief of the United Nations and Relief Rehabilitation Administration. Dr. Stephen J. Wright, professor of education and director of the division of education at Hampton, has been appointed dean of the faculty to fill the unexpired term of Dean Lanier.

According to President Bridgman, veterans of World War II who enroll at Hampton will enjoy the advantage of special curriculum offerings and of counseling services that are especially adapted to their needs and interests.

Among the lively journals gotten out by Negro teacher organizations are *The Herald*, published quarterly by the Georgia Teachers and Educational Association in Atlanta; and the *Virginia Teachers Bulletin*, published at Hampton Institute by the Virginia State Teachers Association. Dr. Horace M. Bond, president of Fort Valley State Teachers College, edits the *Herald;* and J. Rupert Picott, executive secretary of the Virginia organization, the *Bulletin*. Both magazines are illustrated and printed on good, glazed stock.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE was host to the fourth annual Conference on the Conservation of Marriage and the Family, April 6-7. The conference theme was "Improvement of Personal Relations that lead toward Better Marriage and Family Life." Sponsored jointly by the college and the marriage and family council, the conference was under the direction of Mrs. Gladys H. Groves, Chapel Hill, N. C., noted authority on marriage and family problems.

Theological alumni day was observed at SHAW UNIVERSITY, April 4. Dr. J. H. Jackson, pastor of the Mt. Olivet Baptist church, Chicago, delivered the principal address.

Tenth annual conference of the National Association of Personnel Deans and Advisers of Men in Negro Educational Institutions was held at the FLORIDA A. AND M. COLLEGE April 26-28. As a departure from the traditional type of conference, the meeting this year was in the form of a workshop designed to deal with the problems confronting personnel workers.

In the October, 1944 issue of the *Quarterly Journal*, President William H. Gray, Jr., devotes the entire issue to a discussion of "Florida Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges Faces Transition."

A recent speaker at the CHEYNEY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE was Dr. William Agar, former professor of geology at Columbia university. New faculty additions at the college are Miss Ethel L. Perry, who replaces Mrs. Emily Berry as house mother at Douglass Cottage; and Mrs. Florence Samuel, who replaces Mrs. Margaret Scott at Wheatley Cottage.

The Non-Partisan Council of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority has initiated a campaign for adequate appropriations to support the educational program of LANGSTON UNIVERSITY.

Eugene Jesse Brown, art instructor, received state-wide acclaim for his one-man exhibitions of water-colors in the galleries of the Oklahoma Art Institute, Oklahoma City.

Upon a joint request of the State Trade and Industrial Office and the department of trade and industrial education at Langston, E. P. Westmoreland of the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., spent two weeks visiting and working with trade instructors in the state.

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Founded 1910
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A Record of the Darker Races

Editor: ROY WILKINS

Editorial Advisory Board: Lewis S. Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allen Neilson, Walter White, Carl Murphy, John Hammond.

Vol. 52, No. 5 Whole Number 413

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THE CRISIS *was founded in 1910 and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., by The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is $1.50 a year or 15 cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions $1.75. The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2, 1910, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.*

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COMING IN EARLY ISSUES OF THE CRISIS

Articles and stories by J. Antonio Jarvis, Dr. Richard Pattee, George Padmore, Eliot Wagner, Howard Baer, Chester B. Himes, J. Andrew Simmons, Reid E. Jackson, Dr. Benjamin Quarles, Alfred Baker Lewis, Ernest E. Johnson, O. C. Evans, Frank Crosswaith, Irwin Ross, and Thomas F. Doyle. There will be the usual book reviews, pictures of our men in the armed forces, and the monthly summary of NAACP news.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mrs. Ann Petry, a frequent contributor to our pages, is a native of Saybrook, Connecticut, and a graduate of the Connecticut College of Pharmacy. Since her marriage she has lived and worked in Harlem. One of her brilliant stories, "On Saturday the Siren Sounds at Noon" (Crisis, October, 1944), was listed by Martha Foley among the distinctive short stories of 1944. More recently, Mrs. Petry has been the recipient of one of the "Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Awards for 1944." She received the fiction award of $2400 to finish her novel, *The Street*.

Dr. Mark Hanna Watkins is professor of anthropology and sociology in Fisk university, Nashville, Tennessee.

Editorials

Franklin D. Roosevelt

MILLIONS of words have been written about the late President Roosevelt, words which express the shock, grief, and the love which men everywhere felt at news of the death, on April 12, of the First Citizen of the World.

During the Roosevelt era in the White House Negro Americans made more progress toward their goal of full citizenship than under any other administration. For the first time they were included as a component part of the population of the nation, for Roosevelt did not follow the pattern of his predecessors. He did not content himself with appointing one or two Negroes to political office and allowing the rest to shift for themselves. He included the masses in his program. The Negro farmers benefited from his agricultural programs. The Negro worker advanced under his labor legislation. Millions of Negro Americans, not one or two, moved forward.

The men he named to the United States Supreme Court rendered decisions in dozens of cases which thrust the Negro forward, or into a position where he could go forward by his own efforts.

It is true that the millenium in race relations did not arrive under Roosevelt. But cynics and scoffers to the contrary, the great body of Negro citizens made progress, best proof of which was indicated in the fanatical opposition to Mr. Roosevelt by the Dixie diehards on the race question.

Roosevelt set a tone on the Negro. Whether motivated by political shrewdness, or by a cultural background that wanted to see a genuinely better democratic society for all, Mr. Roosevelt created an atmosphere on the race question unmatched by any administration, certainly since the turn of the century.

The world has lost a great leader, a great humanitarian, and the struggling masses of common folk over the globe of every race, color, and religion, have lost a champion and friend. In his memory his disciples must join their efforts to see that his dream of a world of justice, peace and security becomes a reality.

President Truman

IN his first address after taking up the great burden of the Presidency in this momentous hour, Harry S. Truman asked every American "regardless of party, race, creed, or color, to support our efforts to build a strong and lasting United Nations organization."

Let us support Mr. Truman, not only in his efforts for world organization to build and keep the peace, but in the stupendous task of preserving and strengthening our democracy. In this he has pledged himself to the Roosevelt ideals.

Thus far in his public life Mr. Truman has a good record on matters affecting Negro citizens. He is entitled to a chance to add to that record as President and in our judgment of him, pressing as our problems may seem to us, we must remember that we are but a part of the great problem facing America and the world.

We shall hold to our objectives: full and complete equality in the body politic and we shall continue to employ the channels open to citizens under our system of government. We will resist the wiping out of any gains we have made in the past twelve years under Roosevelt; but in this time of adjustment we will respect the demands upon our new President. We are certain that in turn he will respect our aspirations and appreciate our position.

The Master Race

SHOCK and horror have flooded the world at the revelations of murder, sadism, bestiality, depravity, and brutality existing in Nazi Germany's prison camps for civilians and for military prisoners.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower has requested that a delegation of American newspapermen and a delegation from the American Congress be sent to view for themselves the nests of horror and murder maintained by the Hitlerites. Slaughter houses were operated where human beings were dispatched like cattle, their bodies stacked like cordwood and trundled on modern conveyor machinery to huge ovens to be burned up. Mere murder would have been merciful, but death was the kindest thing that happened to these captives. Slow starvation, cruel and degrading torture, and sadism straight from the Middle Ages were employed by the Nazi beasts in human form.

This is the master race. This is the race that set out to rule the world. This is the race proclaiming itself superior to the rest of mankind because of its "aryan whiteness."

If this be superiority we will have none of it, thank you. If this be what "white supremacy" stands for, then the sooner the world is governed by non-whites, the better for mankind. We do not say this in gloating, but in all soberness. What matters it to the world if a nation develops science only to rob and murder? If it builds the finest universities only to teach arrogance and hate? If it breeds the finest physical specimens only to torture, maim, and kill?

The decent and humane white people throughout the world ought to hang their heads in shame and anger henceforth at every rabble-rouser's mention of "white supremacy." Nay, more than that, by their swift and terrible punishment of the guilty they should say to mankind that they will have no truck with "whiteness" as such, that men and nations must be judged not by race, color, or religion, but as human beings bringing to the family of peoples their talents and strengths for the common good of all.

Help Our Colleges

THE United Negro College Fund spring campaign for $1,550,000 to aid 32 institutions of higher learning deserves the support of all our citizens. No one method will solve the problem of the situation of the Negro in this country, but certain it is that education will help greatly. The war has affected the income of our schools at the very time when their services are needed most. Many of them, in common with other colleges in the country, are barely able to maintain themselves. Others are revered institutions with years of distinguished service behind them whose standards are endangered by lack of funds. If we are to have institutions equipped to do the tremendous postwar job each must do his share in this fund-raising campaign.

The "Knockout" War Loan

THE Seventh War Loan opening May 14 should be called the "knockout" loan. No American can afford to hesitate now. Our enemies are groggy and on the run. Before this is in print the war in Germany may be over. The Japs are reeling. Now is the time to buy bonds—*and extra bonds.* Finish the job! Make the Seventh War Loan the biggest ever—the knockout punch for victory and peace!

7th WAR LOAN
May 1—June 30
★
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FOR TOTAL VICTORY

The Old Army Game?

By Roy Wilkins

WILL the Negroes in the armed services in this war be victims of "the old Army game" as were their fathers in the first World War?

That is the big question in the minds of thirteen million colored Americans as they study to discover the meaning of a series of disturbing events that, strung together, begin to make a pattern.

Four WACs go on a "strike", are court-martialed, sentenced to hard labor, but have their sentences voided and are restored to duty.

One thousand Seabees, with 21 months of overseas service, go on a two-day hunger strike. At Ft. Lawton, Washington, 28 soldiers are sentenced to prison at a mass trial.

At another mass trial, staged by the Navy, 50 sailors are convicted of "mutiny" and sentenced to long terms, dishonorable discharges. Not to be outdone by the Navy, the Army staged the largest mass trial and convicted 73 Negro soldiers of mutiny in Hawaii.

Latest upheaval is the mass arrest of 101 officers of a bomber group at Freeman field, Seymour, Ind.

Then there is the now-famous Gibson interview in Rome on March 14 in which an "explanation" was offered for the performance of the 92nd Infantry Division in Italy. From across the broad waters of the Pacific Walter White sent word that the story of the "failure" of the 93rd Infantry Division was a lie out of the whole cloth.

As some sort of final touch to the whole picture is the knowledge—just getting around among civilians—that thousands of Negroes released from service have been given blue and yellow and other discharges which brand them in civilian life and deprive them of most, if not all, of the benefits designed for veterans.

What does all this means? It looks as though someone is trying very hard, with the mighty machinery of all-powerful military regulations in wartime, to manufacture a record on the Negro as a soldier so as to smother his progress toward the full and complete citizenship he is striving to achieve.

About the middle of March Americans learned from their daily papers that Negro and white troops were fighting "shoulder to shoulder" in the same units in the final assault on Germany. *Stars and Stripes*, the army newspaper, carried the dispatch which was then sent to America by the regular wire services.

The recent and welcome announcement that Negro platoons have been integrated into "white" regiments in the Battle of Germany and are fighting shoulder to shoulder with their white comrades indicates that some changes have been made since World War I in the treatment of Negroes in the armed services, but there is disturbing evidence that the basic pattern has been altered very slightly

Negro Americans rubbed their eyes in unbelief, but there it was in black and white: Americans, not in separate racial units, were fighting the enemy *together*. The Associated Press said: "The army has moved cautiously in breaking its long-established tradition of keeping white and Negro units separated..."

Of course, the Negro riflemen, recruited and re-trained from service units, were integrated *by platoons*, into white units, but they were, in a sense, integrated. Continuing dispatches from the front indicated these fighters are making a good record.

Fundamental Change?

But, bearing in mind the incidents cited above, Negro America asked: does this mean any fundamental change in the policy of the War department toward Negro soldiers? If so, how much change and how soon?

Thoughtful Americans, both Negroes and their white friends, remember the long history of the War and Navy Departments in enforcing a strict policy of separation according to color, rather than race, since Mexicans, Chinese, Puerto Ricans and Japanese have been placed in so-called "white" units.

It has been the contention of many persons and many organizations, including the NAACP, that this policy of color segregation is the basic, underlying cause of the incidents which have led to alleged mutinies, strikes, riots, mass arrests, and mass trials. But the Army and Navy officials in Washington would have none of this theory. With war plainly in sight and with the knowledge that at least a million Negroes would be called into the services, the chiefs clung to segregation. On December 12, 1938, Harry H. Woodring, then Secretary of War, wrote the NAACP:

"Following the well established principle that the races should not be mixed within organizations . . . it is necessary to set up specific units to which colored personnel may be assigned. . . ."

For the Navy, Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, then chief of the Bureau of Navigation, wrote the NAACP on October 15, 1937:

"The proposition of enlisting men of other than the white race for general service in the Navy has been under consideration for many years and several experiments have been tried." (He then tells of a trial of two ships with Filipinos and one with Samoans which, he said, proved to be failures.) "There is no reason to believe that such an experiment conducted with men of the Negro race would produce any different results."

For the Air Corps, Major General E. T. Conley wrote on August 26, 1938:

"Since there are no colored Air Corps units in the Army to which colored graduates could be assigned, applications from colored persons for flying cadet appointments are not being accepted."

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson wrote on August 2, 1940:

"Unity can be destroyed by attempting to establish a program which is contrary to the War Department's plans, by those who are not familiar either with the principles involved or the requirements of such plans." And Robert P. Patterson, at the moment Acting Secretary of War, added his bit under date of August 29, 1940:

"Experience has proved the undesirability of mixing white and colored personnel in the same unit, and the War Department is convinced of the undesirability of changing this policy at the present time.

In the famous White House plan, announced October 9, 1940, it was stated:

"The policy of the War Department is not to intermingle colored and white enlisted personnel in the same regimental organizations. This policy has proven satisfactory over a long period of years and to make changes would produce situations destructive to morale and detrimental to the preparation for national defense."

Finally, on December 8, 1941, at a con-

ference of Negro editors with War Department officials in Washington, Colonel E. R. Householder of the Adjutant General's Office enunciated what was to be the Army's theme song on Negro troops:

"The Army cannot change civilian ideas on the Negro. The Army is not a sociological laboratory. The Army's job is to train soldiers. To address itself to racial problems would be to endanger efficiency and morale. The responsibility is upon the complainants in racial friction or clashes."

Maintaining this basic theme stubbornly, the Army soon had more racial trouble than it imagined could occur. There were beatings, shootings, riots and killings all over the South where most of the Negro troops were in training. Bus drivers, civilian police and military police had a field day beating and killing Negroes in uniform.

The War department stood by inactively while these outrages took place. It did nothing to make the Negro soldier feel that the uniform and the cause for which he was being trained to fight were of any importance beside the fact that he was not white.

In fact, the Army helped to impress upon him the fact that he was not an American soldier, but a *Negro*. In the camps there were buses for whites and Negroes, or parts of buses set aside for each race. There were separate post exchanges and separate theatres on the posts, or separate parts of theatres set aside for Negroes. In many camps white officers called the men "niggers" and other derogatory names.

Not content with bowing to Dixie tradition in Dixie the Army permitted its white Southern officers (and some Northern ones as well) to establish Dixie customs in the North and West. Thus, the famed 25th Infantry found that in Walla Walla, Wash., far from Georgia, they were barred from certain ice cream parlors and restaurants because their Texas officers thought Washington should be like Texas! The fanaticism went to ridiculous lengths: ten Negro officers, including a major, were marched from a post theatre in Tennessee under the tommy guns of MPs because they refused to sit in the "Negro" section of the movie house.

Troubles on Troubles

It began to be apparent that the Army, whether it liked it or not, was a sociological laboratory, that the race problem was very much present, and that the business of making soldiers could not be separated from "the civilian idea of the Negro."

Of course it was unrealistic from the beginning to imagine that ten million civilians could be taken into the armed forces and that the race problem would disappear with the donning of uniforms. It was also unrealistic to expect that the Negroes of 1941 would calmly accept the dogmas of 1865 from the War department, individual commanding officers, or white enlisted personnel.

But the War department was stubborn. It had a rule: not sociology, but soldiers. It had a tradition: white is right, black is wrong.

Negro soldiers at Ft. Lawton, Wash., got sick and angry at the arrogance of Italian prisoners of war confined there. Here were the people who yesterday were enemies of America lording it over American soldiers. Here were men who rubbed salt in the wounds made by the cruel color line. One day the colored soldiers boiled over and someone was killed. Twenty-eight men were convicted. The Army was not concerned with the humiliating policy of segregation which caused this outburst; it was concerned only with the alleged crime.

The Navy convicted fifty sailors, 44 of whom had perfect conduct ratings, of "mutiny." The Navy said these men, who had seen 300 of their comrades blown to pieces in a Port Chicago explosion, refused to load ammunition. The Navy ignored the fact that *only* Negroes were used there to do this dirty and dangerous work. Segregation again.

Now, someone has to load ammunition and no Negro would refuse to do his share of this work if whites were similarly assigned and if some Negroes could get to do other tasks. Here again, as in nearly every instance, the Navy was caught on the segregation policy. Because of this policy, there were practically no other places to assign Negroes except to laboring jobs where they could work in gangs by themselves. A non-segregation policy would mean that they would be assigned to ships like other sailors. So a "problem" is created—by the Navy—and the Negroes suffer for it.

The Officer "Problem"

Take the "problem" of Negro officers. There is hardly an Army or Navy bigwig who won't cluck his teeth and wearily shake his head over this knotty headache.

The record shows that the Army has not wanted Negro officers. The mere fact that West Point never had a Negro graduate between about 1900 and 1936 shows that the Army did not even want enough Negro officers for its four Negro regular army regiments. But in a great war with ten million citizens called to the colors, inevitably there will be some Negro officers. In the last war there were some 800, hastily trained. In this war the estimate is that there are about 6,500.

The "problem" is: what shall we do with them? By the holiest of traditions, no Negro must be in command of white troops. But if Negroes reach a certain rank they must command whites because even in "all-Negro" outfits there are white officers. A Negro major or lieutenant colonel might easily be over white captains and lieutenants, even though the enlisted personnel might be black. Therefore the vast majority of Negro officers are juniors, first and second lieutenants. An exception will be found in the separate Negro group in the Air Corps where a Negro colonel is in command. *But all his men and officers are colored.*

Another exception is in the former national guard outfits which were completely Negro. These regiments have been booted about because there was no "place" for them under the segregated philosophy. The 369th New York (anti-aircraft) was sent to Hawaii. Its colored colonel soon began doing the work of a brigade commander. When it became evident that he could no longer be denied promotion to brigadier general, he was brought home as a medical case, then assigned to a desk job in Washington. Immediately upon his departure from Pearl Harbor, five colonels, long overdue for promotions, were made brigadier generals.

The all-Negro Chicago regiment was broken up and its parts assigned to other units. Another was sent to Italy and eventually joined the 92nd Division. Still another was kept on guard duty in New York for two years and is now said to be slated for an overseas assignment. Negroes above the rank of first lieutenant worry the War department to death, not because many of them are not capable of doing their jobs, but because they gum up the smooth segregated plan.

That brings on the "problem" of the officers' club. The 101 young Negro officers arrested at Freeman field early in April are determined to be treated as officers, not as Negroes. If there is a club for officers then they intend to use it. If attempting to use it means arrest, then they choose arrest. From the War department point of view they are "wrong." They don't play according to the rules.

Four Negro WACs were likewise "wrong." They did not believe that just because they were black they should have to do all the dirty work at Lovell hospital, near Fort Devens, Mass. One girl is quoted as saying she'd rather *die* than be treated as she was. She was through, orders or no orders, Army or no Army.

The Negro officers on the battle line in Italy with the 92nd Division were humiliated by being barred from a "white" officers club *set up by men in their own outfit!*

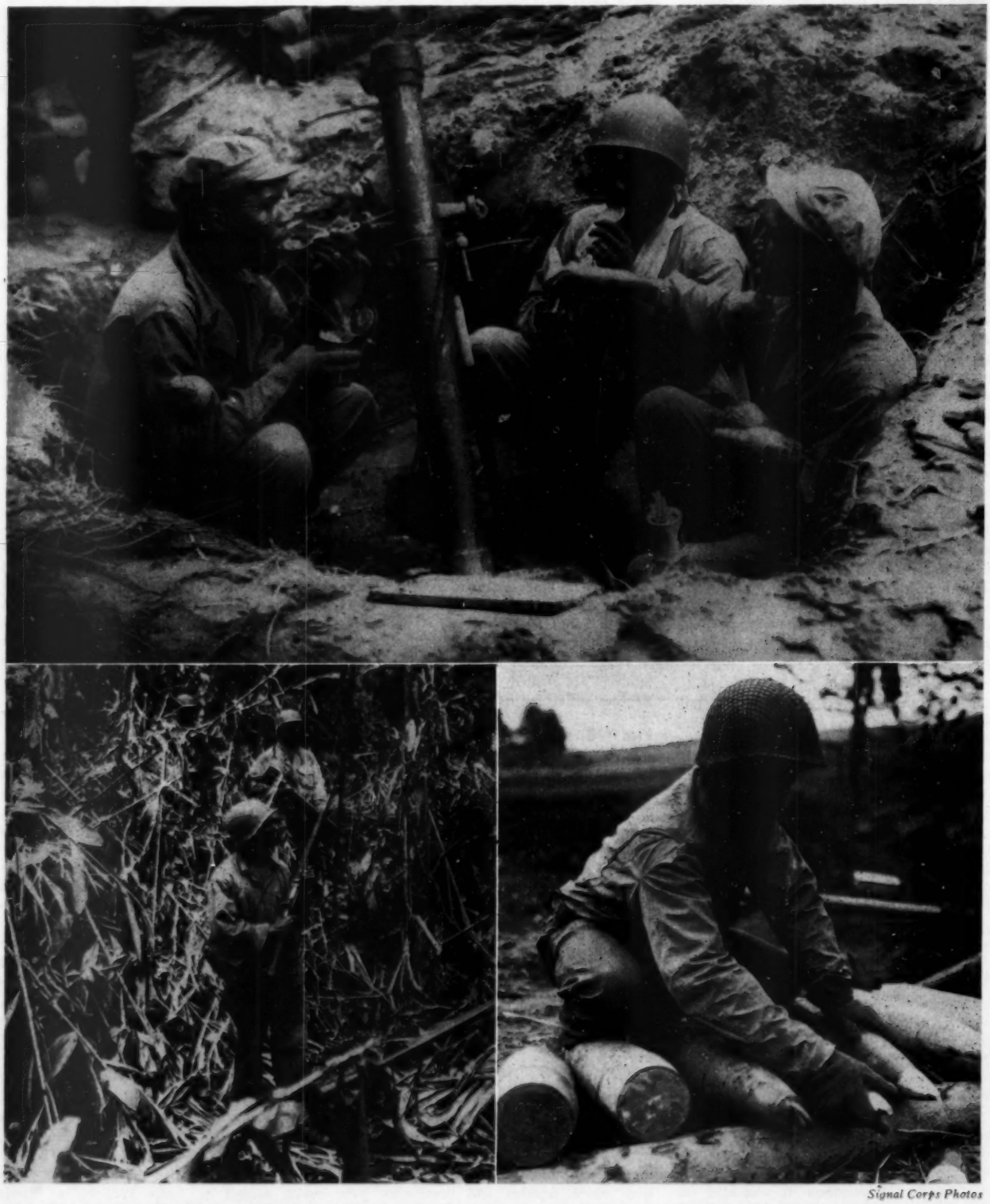
Despite a War department memorandum of last summer outlawing discrimination and segregation on Army posts and transportation, the commander at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where only Negro troops are stationed, has refused to abolish the jim crow club for Negro officers.

High Stake for Peace

Since the hard and fast pronouncements of 1937-1942 on segregation and on the race problem not being part of the Army's job, there has been some wavering. The shootings and beatings disturbed the department. Protests flooded in. Judge William H. Hastie resigned in protest over the specific policy in the Air Corps and the general policy in the department.

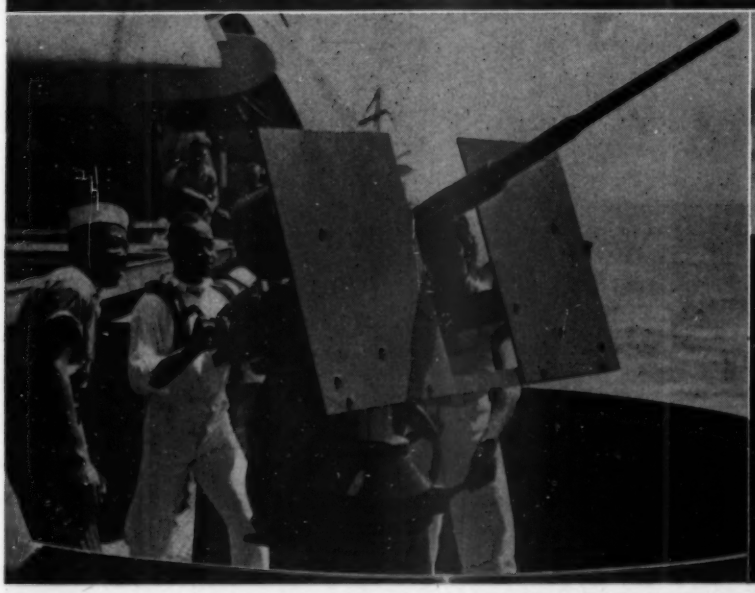
A committee was set up in the office of the

(*Continued on page* 140)



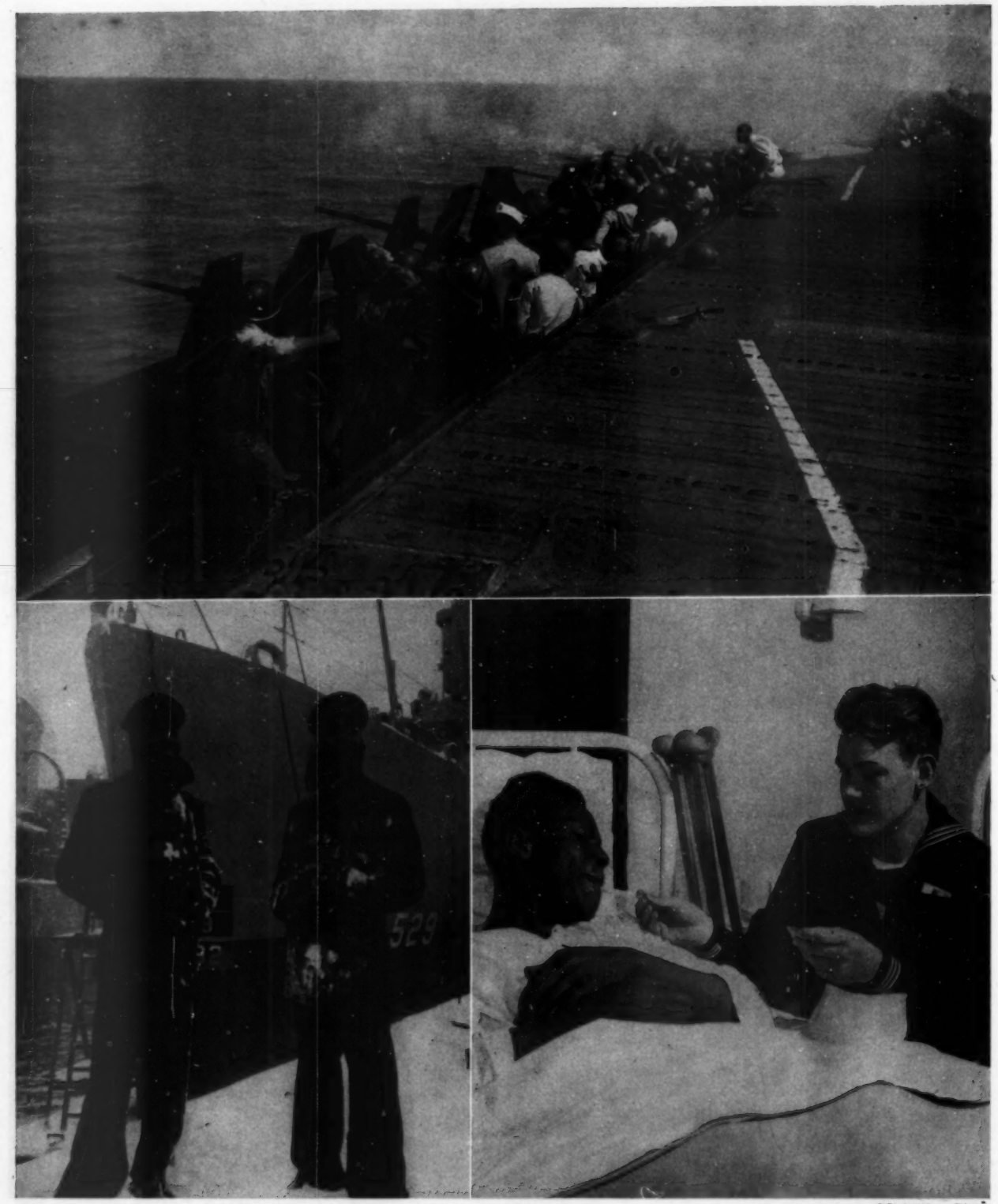
Signal Corps Photos

MEN OF THE 93rd INFANTRY DIVISION—*Top, lunch in a foxhole. A mortar squad of the 93rd Infantry Division eats lunch in a foxhole emplacement on Bougainville, South Pacific. Mortar shells are readily available. The 93rd Division is proving itself in battle against the Japanese. At lower left is a patrol of the 93rd cautiously advancing through the Bougainville jungle near the Numa-Numa Trail. The soldier on the right, Cpl. Alvin Shannon, Clarkesdale, Mississippi, is fuzing a 155mm howitzer shell, preparing to fire it, somewhere in Luxembourg, Europe.*



Official Navy Photos

SOME OF OUR NAVY MEN—*Warrant Officer Charles B. Lear, USNR, drills a company of Negro sailors at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The first Negro officers in the U. S. Naval Reserve to serve outside the continental U. S. reported for duty at the 14th Naval District at Pearl Harbor. Negro mess attendants aboard U. S. warships perform a double duty. They can serve out hot metal to the enemy as well as hot chow to U. S. sailors. The cry of "battle stations" sends them, as at lower left, to a 20mm gun aboard this fighting ship. At right is St. M 2/c Miles Davis King, 19, of Gilmer, Texas, carrying a loaded magazine to his 20mm gun aboard the* USS TULAGI *on its way to southern France for the August 15 invasion.*



Official Navy Photos

NEGROES MAN THE GUNS—*Under the direction of a gunnery officer, these enlisted men pour lead at Japanese planes attacking one of the aircraft carriers in the Navy Task Force raiding the Japanese base of Saipan in the Marianas, February 17, 1944. "What's a little snow?" laugh two members of the predominantly Negro crew of the* USS MASON *as they stand proudly beside the bow of their new destroyer escort vessel. Eventually, the entire crew of this ship will be Negro. Cheering up a fellow Navy man is Seaman First Class Everett Howk lighting a match for Louis Blackshear, a steward second class, confined to the hospital at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Seattle, Washington, with a leg injury. Blackshear's crutches stand at the head of his bed.*

Olaf and His Girl Friend

By Ann Petry

It was love of Belle Rose that made Olaf conquer his dread fear of the sea. From Bridgetown to Harlem via England and Africa is a long way and when he arrived the Conga night club lost its star dancer

THIS is Olaf's story. I don't pretend to know all of it. I saw parts of it that happened on the dock in Bridgetown, Barbados. And I saw the ending of the story in New York. The rest of it I had to piece together from the things that Olaf's friends told me. As a result I think I'm the only person who actually knows why a pretty little West Indian dancer disappeared very suddenly from the New York nightclub where she sang calypso songs and danced *la conga* and the *beguine*. She was beginning to make the place famous. And she vanished.

It's only if you know Olaf's story that you can understand her disappearance. He was a great big black guy who worked on the docks in Bridgetown. Some two hundred and twenty pounds of muscle and six feet of height. I liked to watch him work. The way his muscles rippled under his skin as he lifted boxes and bags fascinated me. They were those long, smooth muscles you find in perfectly trained athletes.

When the sun shone on him it caught high lights in his skin, so that he looked like an ebony man. I soon discovered that there was a slender native girl who found him even more interesting to watch than I did. I only wanted to paint him against the green water of Carlisle bay. She wanted to marry him.

Her name was Belle Rose. She had that sinuous kind of grace that suggests the born dancer. When she walked she swayed a little as though she were keeping time to a rumba that played somewhere inside her head.

She used to show up at noon time, two or three days a week. She'd sit by him while he ate his lunch. They talked and laughed about nothing at all. His great laugh would boom out the length of the dock and the other dock hands would grin because they couldn't help it.

"Olaf's girl's here," they said.

She couldn't have been more than seventeen years old. The dock boys used to look at her out of the corner of their eyes and flash their white teeth at her but it seemed to be pretty well accepted that she was Olaf's girl.

It was nearly a month before thing's started going wrong. One day I heard a lot of noise at one end of the dock. I welcomed the interruption for I'd been trying to paint the bay and I was filled with a sense of despair of ever getting that incredible green on canvas. So I left my easel to investigate.

Olaf's girl was standing sort of huddled up. All the laughter gone out of her. She was holding her face as though it hurt. A short, stumpy, dark brown woman was facing Olaf a little way off from the girl.

The woman was neatly dressed even to the inevitable umbrella that the upper class island women carry and she looked for all the world like a bantam rooster. She had one hand on her hip and with the other hand she was gesticulating with the raised umbrella while she berated Olaf in a high, shrill voice.

"I tell you I won't have you seeing her. She's too good for your kind. Belle Rose will marry a teacher," she shook the umbrella under his very nose.

He looked like an abashed great dane. But he stood his ground.

"I do no harm. I love her. I want to marry her."

And that set the old girl off again. "Marry her? You?" she choked on the words. "You think you'll marry her? I'll have you locked up. I'll—" she was overcome with sheer rage.

"I'm honest. I love her. I think she's beautiful. I wouldn't harm her," he pleaded.

She shook her head violently and went off muttering that Belle Rose's father had been a school teacher and Belle Rose wasn't going to marry any dock hand. Her umbrella was still quivering as she hurried away holding the girl firmly by the arm.

She turned around when she was half the length of the dock. "Besides you're a coward. Everybody knows you're scared of the water. Belle Rose will never marry a coward."

Olaf followed them. I don't know how that particular episode ended. But I was curious about him and questioned the dock hands. They told me his father had been a sailor and his grandfather before him. Olaf should have been a sailor but his mother brought him up to be afraid of the water. It seems his father went down with a ship during a violent storm.

Shortly after I learned about Olaf's fear of the sea, he slipped on the dock and went head first into the bay. He managed to stay afloat until the boys fished him out but he was obviously half dead from fright. It was a week before he came back to work.

"You all right, mahn?" the boys asked.

Olaf nodded and kept any feelings he had about it to himself.

It was only because he loved Belle Rose that he came back to work. I overheard them talking about it. They were sitting on the edge of the dock. It seemed to me they were the most paintable pair I'd ever seen. He was stripped to the waist because he'd been working. His wide, cream colored straw hat and faded blue dungarees were a perfect foil for the starched white of her dress and the brilliant red of the turban wound so deftly around her head.

"And we'll have a house not too near the sea," she said in a very soft voice.

"Yes. Not too near the sea," was his answer. "It'll be just near enough to watch the sun on the water in the bay."

"Olaf, you don't like this job. Do you?" she asked.

"Only for you. I like it for you. It means we can get married soon. That's why I came back to work."

I walked away and I asked the boys what became of Olaf's girl friend's aunt. Had she decided they could get married after all? The boys looked sheepish.

"They will have big wedding. Olaf goes every Sunday now to call on Belle Rose. All dressed up in scissors tail coat. With stiff collar. Olaf takes the aunt plantains every Sunday. I don't think she change her mind. Olaf just too big. And she got no man to deal with him," was the answer.

The boys were right in one respect. The marriage banns were posted. But it wasn't to be the big church wedding Belle Rose's aunt had set her heart on. Olaf threatened to elope unless it was a small wedding. And auntie gave in gracefully. I wondered about that. She seemed a domineering kind of old girl to agree to a small wedding when she wanted a large one. The more I thought about it the queerer it seemed that she should have consented to any kind of wedding.

The dock crew quits about five o'clock in Bridgetown. The day I discovered that the girl's aunt had no intentions of allowing any kind of marriage, a big American merchant ship had been loaded with fruit. She was due to sail at seven o'clock. On that par-

ticular day Belle Rose's aunt set Olaf on an errand that took him half way across the island.

I went down to watch the passengers clamber aboard the launch. There were a lot of native women at the dock. They were seeing a couple of passengers off. You could hear their goodbyes and messages half way across the bay.

I stared in amazement. It was Belle Rose and her aunt who were going away. The aunt all officious and confidential at the same time. Ordering Belle Rose to do this and did she have that and where was the small bag. She was fairly bursting with importance.

"My boy in New York sent me the money. The passage fare for both of us," she explained loudly for the benefit of a late comer.

"Belle Rose, do you think you'll like it?" asked one of the younger women.

The aunt didn't give the girl time to answer. "Of course she will," she said firmly. "She's never been off the island. She wants to see the world a bit. Don't you, dear?"

Belle Rose nodded. "Yes, I do. But I wish I could have said good-bye to Olaf. And I did want to stay near him," her voice was wistful.

"You can write to him. You'll see him soon. After all he can come and see you, you know," and with that she hurried the girl into the steamer's launch. She leaned over to the whisper to an older woman, "You know it aren't as though he were fit for her," and then turned her attention back to the girl and their bags.

I stood on the deck until the ship had become a mere speck in the distance. New York was a long ways away. A dock hand could hardly hope to get there in a life time. And though the old woman had counted on that, she deliberately sold that girl the idea that New York was some place just around the corner and practically suggested that Olaf could commute back and forth to see her.

I felt like calling the ship back. Because if ever a man loved a woman that man was Olaf and the woman was Belle Rose. He stopped laughing after he discovered the girl was gone. He got very quiet. It wasn't that he brooded or was sullen. He was just quiet and he worked with a grim determination.

When he got letters from her he seemed to come alive again. And I could tell when ever he'd received one. Then the letters stopped coming. I asked him about it. "Have you heard from your girl?"

"No. Not lately. I don't understand it," he said.

A whole year crept around. A year that brought the war a little closer to us. A year in which his letters kept coming back marked, "Moved. Left no address." A year in which the native women came down to the dock to look coyly at Olaf. They walked past him and flirted with him. He ignored them.

I found out later that Belle Rose never received the letters that he wrote her. Auntie saw to that. Finally she intercepted the letters that Belle Rose wrote to him. And then, of course, they moved and auntie gave the post office no forwarding address.

One day out of a clear sky, Olaf signed up on a ship. Olaf who was so afraid of the sea that when he looked out over the bay his eyes would go dead and blank. Olaf who worked with one eye on the sky when the storms came up suddenly. He signed on one of those gray, raffish looking ships that were forever limping into port and disgorging crews of unshaven, desperate looking men. Olaf, who hated the sea, signed on a merchant ship.

It was a long time before I found out how it happened. It seems that he got a message. These days people talk about the underground of the little people in the conquered countries of Europe. But there's always been an underground that could send a message half way round the world.

It happened in Olaf's case. The message travelled in the mouths of ship's stewards and mess boys. It took a good six months for Olaf to get it.

The first boat with the message on it left New York and went to Liverpool. And then to northern Africa. She bummed half way around the world—sneaking from one port to another carrying guns and men and God knows what. And Olaf's message. And everywhere she went the message was transferred to other ships and other men.

The steward on a boat that lumbered back and forth across the Atlantic helped relay it—"tell Olaf"—. The message went to India and the messmen on an English ship learned about it.

Finally it got to Olaf. It was a little, excitable man with just two hours leave who delivered it to him on the dock.

"Belle Rose is dancing in New York in a place that is not good. Not by 'alf. Elmer and Franklin and Stoner sent back word to you. They work in that same place. She dances. And it is not a good dance."

The word had come such a long way and had been such a long time getting to its destination that the little man was breathless from the sheer weight of it. He'd learned it from two sailors in an infamous house on the edge of the water front in Liverpool. His beard fairly quivered with the excitement of it.

"Did you hear me, Olaf?" he asked sharply as though his voice would bring a reaction. "It is not a good dance."

Olaf stared out at the sea. It was a long time before he spoke. "I heard. Yes," he said slowly. "I heard. I will take care of it."

And he walked off the dock and signed up on the same ship that had brought the little man with the message. Just like that. The man who was afraid of the sea signed up on a ship.

I learned afterwards that he worked in the ship's galley—washing dishes and helping with the cooking. He was very quiet. His quietness permeated the stuffy bunk rooms. It made the men uneasy even when they were shooting craps, or singing, or just talking.

He was always in his bunk when he wasn't working. He lay there staring up at the ceiling with an unwinking gaze.

"S'matter with the big guy?" the mate asked nervously. "Guys like that bring bad luck."

"Just quiet," was the usual apologetic answer of the little man who was responsible for Olaf's being aboard.

Olaf hadn't even bothered to find out what port they were heading for. When they docked on a cold, wet night he asked a question for the first time. "New York?"

"This England, mahn," was the answer. "Liverpool."

But they headed for New York on the return trip. If Olaf thought about the danger of the queer, crazy voyage he didn't show it. He was on deck hours before the boat docked, peering into the dark. He would start his search now. At once. In a few minutes.

He asked a black man on the dock, "You know a girl named Belle Rose?"

The man shook his head. "Bud, there's a lot of women here. All kinds of people. You won't find no woman that way. What she look like?" And then he added, "Where does she live?"

"Like—like—" Olaf fumbled for words, his throat working, "like the sun. She's so high," he indicated a spot on his chest. "She's warm like the sun—" his voice broke. "I don't know where she lives."

The man stared at him. "What's your name? Where you from?"

"The Islands. Barbados. To the South. My name is Olaf," and then his voice grew soft as he said again, "Her name is Belle Rose." He seemed to linger over her name.

"Naw," the man returned to his work, "You won't find her, Bud, just knowin' her name."

They were in port just two hours and they were gone again. But the underground had the message. 'Olaf from Barbados is looking for Belle Rose.'

The dock worker told a friend and the story went into the kitchens, and the freight elevators of great hotels. Doormen knew it and cooks and waiters. It travelled all the way from the water front to Harlem. People who'd never heard of Belle Rose knew that a man named Olaf was looking for her.

The cook in a nightclub told three West Indian drummers who were part of the floor show. Elmer, Franklin and Stoner looked at each other and gesticulated despairingly when they heard it. A message started back to Olaf. It took a long time. Olaf saw the edge of Africa and a port in Australia and Liverpool again before the message reached

him.

His silence had grown omnious, portentous. The men never spoke to him. They left him alone — completely alone. They shivered a little when they looked at him.

One of the crew picked the message up in Liverpool and brought it to him. "The name of the place where Belle Rose dances is the Conga."

Olaf went to the mate when he heard it and asked when they'd dock in New York again. The mate stared at him, "I don't know. I never know where we're goin' until we're under way. You got some reason for wantin' to go to New York?"

"Yes. I have to find a girl there," Olaf looked past the man as he spoke.

"You? A girl?" the mate couldn't conceal his amazement. "I didn't know you were interested in girls."

But Olaf had turned away to watch the ship being loaded. They left Liverpool that same night. It was a bad voyage. Stormy and cold. With high seas.

They docked in New York early on a cold bitter morning. They were paid off for the Atlantic voyage and given two days shore leave. The crew disappeared like magic. Only Olaf was left behind.

He asked a policeman on the dock, "Where do black people live in this place?" he gestured towards the city.

"You better take a taxi, boy. Tell the driver you want the YMCA on 135th Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenue. In Harlem."

The man wrote it down for him on the back of an envelope. Olaf looked at the paper frequently while the cab crawled through a city that looked half dead. It was shrouded in gray. It was cold. There were no lights in the buildings and few people on the streets. They snaked their way between tall buildings, over cobblestoned streets, along miles of a highway that ran for awhile along the edge of the river. It was getting lighter and he became aware that all the people on the streets through which they were passing were dark.

He relaxed a little. He was getting near the end of his long journey. "All this place —is all this place New York?" he indicated the sidewalk.

The driver studied him in the mirror and nodded, "Yeah. All of it's New York. Where you from?"

"Barbados," Olaf said simply. He was wondering what could have happened to Belle Rose in this Place. And where would he find her?

It was the first thing he asked the man behind the wicket when he paid for his room at the 'Y'.

"I wouldn't know anybody with a name like that," the man said coldly.

"Where is the place called the Conga?" Olaf asked.

"I never heard of it," the man shoved a receipt towards him. "Take the elevator to the fifth floor. Your room is number 563. Next, please."

But the elevator man had heard about the Conga. He told Olaf how to get there. Even told him that eleven o'clock at night was the best time to visit it.

Olaf sat in his room—waiting. He was like a man that had been running in a cross country race and realizes suddenly that the finish line is just a little ways ahead because he can see it.

At eleven o'clock he was in a taxi, on his way to the Conga. The taxi went swiftly.

It was the expression in his eyes that made the doorman at the place try to stop him from going in. He tried to block his way and Olaf brushed him aside, lightly, effortlessly, as though he'd been a fly.

Once inside he was a little confused. There was smoke, and the lights were dim. People were laughing and talking; their voices blurred and loud from liquor. He walked to a table right at the edge of the space used for dancing. A protesting waiter hurried towards him, pointed at the reserved sign on the table. Olaf looked at him and put the sign on the floor. The waiter backed away and didn't return.

I recognized him when he sat down. He folded his arms on the table and sat there perfectly indifferent to the looks and the whispered conversations around him.

I used to go up to the Conga rather often. Barney, the guy who runs it was a friend of mine. He told me a long time ago that all the dance lovers in town were flocking into his place because of a young West Indian girl who did some extraordinary dancing. Barney knew I'd lived in the Islands and he thought I'd be interested.

I was more than interested for the girl, of course, was Belle Rose. After the first visit I became a regular customer because I figured that sooner or later Olaf would show up. I wanted to be there when he arrived. The gods were kind to me. As I said before, I saw him when he came in and sat down.

He'd completely lost that friendly look he'd had. He was a dangerous man. It was in his eyes, in the way he carried his head. It was in his tightly closed mouth. A mouth that looked as though laughter were were a stranger that had never passed that way. All of the humor had gone out of him. He was like an elastic band that had been stretched too far.

The lights went down and the three West Indian drummers came in—Elmer, and Franklin and Stoner. They filed in carrying the native drums that they played. Drums made of hollowed logs with hide stretched across them. They sat astride them the way the natives do—and drummed.

I couldn't swear to it that they'd actually seen Olaf. After all if you play in one of those places long enough, I imagine you get to know the tricks of lighting and you can seen everybody in the place. And yet I don't know. Mebee they had some kind of umpteenth sense. Perhaps they felt some difference in the atmosphere.

When they started to drum it was—well, different. The tempo was faster and there was something subtly alarming about it. It ran through the audience. Men tapped ashes off their cigarettes—and there wasn't any ash there. Women shivered from a draft that didn't exist. The waiters moved ash trays and bottles for no reason at all. The headwaiter kept shooting his shirt cuffs and fingering around the edge of his collar.

Belle Rose came on suddenly. One moment she wasn't there. And the next moment she was bowing to the audience. I wonder if I can make you see her. Half of New York used to go to that dinky little club just to watch her dance. She was a deep reddish brown color and very slender. Her eyes were magnificent. They were black and very large with a curious lack of expression. There's an old obeah woman in Barbados with those same strange eyes.

I think I said that Barney Jones was a showman. He'd gotten her up so that she looked like some gorgeous tropical bird—all life, and color and motion.

She danced in her bare feet. There was a gold anklet around one ankle and a high gold collar around her neck that almost touched her ear lobes. The dress she wore was made of calico and it had a bustle in the back so that every time she moved the red calico flirted with her audience. She had on what looked to be yards of ruffled petticoats. They were starched so stiffly that the dress stood out and the white ruffling showed from underneath the dress. A towering red turban covered her hair completely. There were flowers and fruit and wheat stuck in the turban.

She sang a calypso number first. Something about marrying a woman uglier than you. The nightclub was very quiet. Somebody knocked over a glass and giggled in a high, hysterical fashion. There was a queer stillness afterwards.

I looked at Olaf. He wasn't moving at all. He was staring at Belle Rose. His hands were flat on the table. He looked as though he might spring at any moment. The reflection from the spotlight shone on the beads of sweat on his forehead.

And I thought of that other time when I used to see him, laughing on the dock at Bridgetown with the sun shining on him. Now he was in a nightclub in a cold, alien city watching the girl he had intended to marry. He'd come a long, long way.

The applause that greeted that first number of hers was terrific. She bowed and said, "I weel now do for you the obeahwoman.'

Olaf stiffened. His eyes narrowed. The drums started again. And this time I tell you they talked as plainly as though they were alive. Human. They talked danger. They talked hate. They snarled and they

(*Continued on page* 147)

GLAMOROUS LENA HORNE BACKS COLLEGE FUND DRIVE

LENA HORNE, *MGM singing star, proudly displays checks sent to the United Negro College Fund by Negro soldiers in the Pacific battle areas. William J. Trent, Jr., (left) executive secretary of the Fund, and Thomas A. Morgan, (right) president of the Sperry Corporation and national chairman of the campaign, accepted the gifts. Miss Horne will serve as a member of the Hollywood committee during the United Negro College Fund's current national appeal for* $1,550,000.

THIS year, the 32 private colleges comprising the United Negro College Fund have banded together for a second presentation of their needs for the coming year to the whole American public. These collective needs total $1,550,000 and the 1945 campaign is now under way in more than 50 cities throughout the nation.

Each one of these colleges is a needed and timely influence both for the progress of a people and for national progress. Together they constitute thirty-two distinct steps forward to a better America, in the immediate post-war days ahead and in the long term future of our country.

They add up to one of the significant philanthropic opportunities of our time.

One great light illuminates the Negro's progress in America, the beacon light of education, of the kind and calibre now so inadequate.

One fact alone reveals the significance of the existing need in this direction, and the almost limitless opportunity for development it holds:

LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE ADULT NEGROES IN AMERICA TODAY ARE COLLEGE GRADUATES!!

Only out of education on its higher levels, can come the needed stream of trained Negro teachers, ministers, doctors, dentists, agriculturists, business men, professional men, social workers and many others who will provide the race with its leadership and guide and lead it upward and forward in the days ahead.

Yet the job to be done in terms of the possibilities and opportunities, is one of the most challenging of our generation. For instance, the Negro veteran poses an immediate problem. For an anticipated thirty thousand qualified returning Negro veterans seeking a college education, this group of colleges can offer the needed and sought after training.

By augmenting key teaching services, by starting to place existing facilities in thorough working order, through steadily improving standards, and by offering opportunity for college educations to a larger number of Negro youth of the nation, the colleges associated with the United Negro College Fund can lift the level of Negro education and move forward to new and prideful achievement.

Through widening every constructive avenue for interracial cooperation, through their powerful alumni bodies, through turning out in growing numbers an informed and intelligent leadership, they can be a vital force for national progress and a stabilizing factor for the nation.

All Americans can help, through prompt and generous support of this current campaign. Your contribution to the Fund should be made payable to the United Negro College Fund, Inc., and sent to the National Headquarters, 38 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y., or to your local fund raising committee.

Racial Situation in Denver

By Mark Hanna Watkins

This article tells what the slogan "Go west, young man" means to a Negro who migrates to Denver, Colorado

"GO west, young man." With what degree of optimism can this advice be given to the young Negro in the South, the young Negro who would escape a purgatory in which his experiences are not moderated by a feeling that at least they are expiatory?

Even at the time of its origin, the statement was hardly applicable to the Negro, who, for the most part, was a chattel slave. The words are recorded as originating with John Babsone Lane Soule and first appearing in the *Terre Haute* (Indiana) *Express*, 1851; but they were popularized by Horace Greeley, who, attracted by them, printed them in the *New York Tribune* and adopted them as expressive of one of the movements which he espoused. Hence the saying, "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country," often is attributed to Greeley. Some men have asserted that he actually exhorted them in this manner, and in his *To Aspiring Young Men* he wrote: "If you have no family or friends to aid you, and no prospect opened to you . . ., turn your face to the great West, and there build up a home and fortune."

Greeley was an abolitionist, but his words here were not directed to the Negro. Can they profitably be borrowed for use in the social and economic guidance of the Negro in contemporary life? A sample racial situation illustrative of a section of the West may aid in answering the question. For this purpose, we focus the light on Denver, Colorado, a city in the Mountain States area, between the South and the Pacific Coast.

Denver lies somewhat off the direct traffic route, but is among the last stations to be reached before one crosses the Rockies and the desert country. It is attractive as a health resort, particularly for those who suffer from respiratory ailments and it is the most populous settlement west of Kansas City until the coast is reached.

In numerical ratio to the total population of the city, the Negroes of Denver do not attain the "visibility" which is achieved by those of St. Louis, Kansas City, Topeka, Phoenix, Omaha, and Tucson. In St. Louis, Mo., Negroes constitute 13.3 percent of the total population; in Chicago, Ill., they form 8.2 percent of the total; in Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas, 10.3; in Salt Lake City, Utah, 0.5; and in Denver, Colorado, 2.4 percent.

The figures, taken from the 1940 Census, represent the "normal," or pre-war, situation. There are changes due to war-time migration, but no attempt to estimate them is made here. In Denver, changes in the actual number of Negroes have been small, so that the proportion may be less than it was in 1940, as the influx of whites has exceeded greatly that of the Negroes.

Negro Areas in Denver

The Negroes of Denver are concentrated in and adjacent to "Five Points," an ecological zone which has developed around the intersection of Welton street, Washington street, and Twenty-sixth avenue. In the area extending southwards from this focal center, from Clarkson street on the west to High street on the east, are the homes of better class Negroes. East of High street and south of 21st avenue are restricted zones in which Negroes may not rent or buy.

In general, the Denverites, including the Negroes, are home-owners, and much time is spent in caring for their premises. The houses are neat and clean in appearance, and even in the poorer-class sections the lawns are well-watered and carpeted with green. Denver is a "clean city," at least physically.

"Five Points" is Denver's Harlem, and, like its more distinguished parallel in New York, is a "moral area" in which the transplanted culture of the southern Negro has been only slightly modified, or at any rate has not lost its folk characteristics. In the "Points"—the "Five" is often omitted—one encounters, in varying degrees, many of the traits and physical types which are to be seen on Lenox Avenue, on Chicago's Thirty-ninth street (between South Parkway and State street), or on Memphis' Beal avenue (Beal street).

Negro Denverites find employment primarily as common laborers, domestics, railway porters, and in the postal service. The public utilities, gas and electric, telephone and street car services, are almost entirely without Negro employees. No Negroes are on the police force at present. There is one Negro unit in the fire department; one elementary school, Whittier, employs five Negro teachers, and there are three dentists, four doctors, four druggists, five attorneys, including one Negro representative in the State Legislature, three mortuary establishments, and five real estate businesses. Denver is the home of the American Woodmen, a fraternal insurance organization which employs thirty persons. There are two (?) local Negro newspapers. (The white dailies are decidedly not liberal, and the *Denver Post* is the fused spirits of Hearst and McCormick.)

Only one of the Negro restaurants might be called first class. There is an ample supply of the clergy; with some of "God's trombones" for the orgiastic services of the folk churches. There is one Negro Episcopal church, but no church exclusively for Negro Catholics. The St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic church accepts Negroes in its membership.

The hospitals are "lily white" as far as staff employment and opportunities for nurse training are concerned, and those fostered by the church particularly are in this category. The publicly supported hospitals accept Negro patients and are available for use by Negro doctors. "Jim crow" schools are lacking, and there is no segregation on the streetcars or busses.

Equal Rights Law

Since there is an equal rights law in Colorado, the Denver theatres have been forced to admit Negroes and a few of the restaurants serve them. Even with this legal sanction, such privileges are not enjoyed without the possibility of conflict. Protests and picketing by interracial groups were necessary to open these doors. On one occasion, the pickets were arrested, but ironically it had to be admitted that the theatres, not the pickets, were violating the law. Places of amusement do not provide for bi-racial dancing. When Negro orchestras visit the city, the Rainbow Ball Room is rented to the Negroes who serve as their sponsors. White patrons may attend as spectators, but must not dance, even though they select companions from their own group. This is effected by a stipulation in the contract of rental, and it is enforced by the police. Last September when Lionel Hampton and his orchestra played the Rainbow, there was a large crowd, including many whites. One white couple tested the regulations by attempting to dance, but they were stopped. Here is an instance in which Negroes are forced to discriminate against whites. Some Negroes, of course, resent the white participation in their dances, since the situation cannot be reversed. On the occasion mentioned above, the white girl reported that a Negro girl kicked her rather severely on the legs when she attempted to dance. Eliche's Gardens,

Denver's leading place of entertainment, will admit Negroes, but they are not permitted to dance. The parks are not segregated, and their facilities—tennis courts, golf links, benches, etc.—are available to all classes and races. The Roxy theatre in "Five Points" is *de facto* a segregated institution, serving the Negro masses.

Other Denver Minorities

Denver minorities include not only Negroes, but Spanish-speaking peoples (native and Mexican), who often are maltreated; and lately the Japanese, who are refugees from the Pacific Coast. These groups have formed no unity against their common enemy and each seems to be preoccupied largely with its own affairs. There appears to be no tendency toward the development of a liaison. The situation of the Spanish-speaking folk is bad: they are segregated residentially and are vicitims of discrimination and police brutality; for the most part they fall in the lower economic and educational classes. Aggression against the Japanese grows out of their recency of arrival, traditional American color prejudice, and the acute situation which has been created by the war. They sometimes find it difficult to rent or buy homes, and there is a bill in the state legislature which if passed will prevent their owning land if they are aliens. (The bill does not specify Japanese aliens, but is understood to be directed primarily against them. It is known popularly as "the Japanese Land Bill, Amendment No. 3."

The principal local organizations which are endeavoring to achieve and maintain racial accommodations and integration are the NAACP, the FOR, Committee On Racial Equality, the Forerunners, the Grace Community Church, the Denver Unity Council, and the Denver Cosmopolitan Club. The NAACP seems to be weak; the FOR is handicapped in war time by its pacifism, and Grace Community church has only one Negro member. Hence, the most effective of these groups are probably the Unity Council and the Cosmopolitan Club. The former has been organized for a period of almost a year, and maintains vigilance against racial disturbances. It is still in the formative and planning stage. At its head is Dean Paul Roberts of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, a prominent citizen and churchman, and a sincere liberal.

At meetings, which are held in the St. John's Cathedral Parish House, issues concerning all the local minority groups are raised and discussed. This provides—perhaps without design—an opportunity for each group to become acquainted with the problems of the others and to see them in the round as well as particular. Here the Japanese, the Jew, the Negro, and the Spanish-speaking American listen to one another's complaints.

The Negro representation was small at meetings during the summer, although Negroes are welcomed and treated with equality.

The Cosmopolitan Club

Rather different in character is the Denver Cosmopolitan Club, an inter-racial organization of some thirteen years' existence. Dr. Clarence F. Holmes, a distinguished Negro dentist and active citizen, is its president. This group has as its motto: "Humanity above Race, Color, Nationality or Creed." Its meetings are well attended by persons of all the local racial and national groups, and problems are discussed with great candor. Its atmosphere is less formal than that of the Unity Council. Fundamentally, it is a congenial group, which holds its meetings at private residences, serves refreshments, and after the program provides opportunity for intimate face-to-face contacts in which the members come to know one another simply as fellow human beings. In the warmth of such cordiality and freedom the icebergs of reserve that tend to prevent inter-racial understanding are melted somewhat automatically, and people are inclined to forget the artificial differences that separate them. In this respect, the Club probably is more effective than is the Council. This is not an invidious comparison; the situations are different, and both groups are needed. However, the Council since its chief activity consists of discussing, planning, and perhaps eventually acting on the racial front, tends to encourage a consciousness of race—a necessary evil inherent in an organization such as this, the NAACP, or in the Negro Press. The Club, though serving as a protest group against racial conflicts and as formally active in community-race problems as to the Council, has the advantage of a leaven that works from within.

Grace Church

Somewhat similar to the work of the Denver Cosmopolitan Club is that of the Grace Community church. By openly accepting members without reference to race, color, or nationality, and by fostering a spirit of goodwill through its community activities, this chuch makes efforts to approach the ideal of Christian brotherhood. The pastor, the Reverend Edgar M. Walberg, known to his friends as "Wally," has had a hard struggle in developing this type of institution, but he holds the respect of all important elements in the community, and hence can make innovations in the racial mores. Dr. Holmes, to whom reference was made above, is the only Negro who is affiliated with this church. Through his professional activities and intelligent participation in interracial affairs, he is perhaps doing more for civic unity than any other person in the city. He has a parallel in Mr. James Fresques, a member of the Spanish-speaking minority who holds a place on the City Council.

Denver needs a more energetic Negro leadership in matters pertaining to the interracial situation. Others, no doubt, make contributions along this line, but the principal role seems to be played by Dr. Holmes, and this one man, occupied with his professional responsibilities and rental business, can hardly do enough in this direction. The NAACP branch seems unenterprising, and the local Negro press could be improved. More "middle class" Negroes in the population would help too. Worthy of commendation is the growing awareness of white liberals regarding the necessity for better integration of all groups into the Denver community.

The Negro who "goes west" to Denver will find relief from some of the sordid conditions of the South, but he will not escape the "long arm of race prejudice."

Pepsi-Cola Gift to Harlem

On April 27 the Model Teen-Age Club was officially opened in Harlem by Mayor LaGuardia. The club was presented as a gift to the community by the Pepsi-Cola Company through its president, Walter S. Mack, Jr. The center is located at 121 Lenox avenue (105 W. 116th street) and will be run on a system of self-government by the youngsters themselves, ranging in age from 15 to 16, through their own house council. An adult club director and a local advisory board of adult neighbors will assist in guiding the young people as problems arise.

Army Game?

(*Continued from page* 131)

assistant Secretary of War to deal with racial situations. Finally, after three years of war, the memorandum was issued banning segregation of Army installations.

The basic policy on separation of enlisted personnel was not altered in the slightest until March, 1945, when a few thousand Negro service troops were permitted to volunteer for re-training as riflemen and, after training, were attached as platoons to "white" units in the final battle for Germany. It is said that this revolutionary action took place at the suggestion of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and his right hand man, Lt. General John C. H. Lee.

The Army and the Negro citizens recognize this as an experiment. If it works well, it might mark the beginning of the breaking down of the rigid segregation policy which has been responsible for the troubles outlined in this piece, and for the intense bitterness and cynicism of Negroes on the war for democracy.

Despite the memorandum and the unprecedented action on the western front,

(*Continued on page* 145)

Along the N. A. A. C. P. Battlefront

ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL PROGRAM: On Sunday, April 15, at 4:00 P. M., over WNYC, the NAACP broadcast a tribute to the late President Franklin Roosevelt. Originally scheduled to mark the opening of the annual spring membership drive, the program, after the untimely death of the President, was given over instead to commemoration of Mr. Roosevelt. Speakers were Herman Taylor, Roy Wilkins, and Arthur B. Spingarn, NAACP president. Mrs. Maude Turner of the New York branch was chairman.

"The death of President Roosevelt is a tragic loss to mankind," said Mr. Spingarn; "but to the minority peoples of the world, and particularly to the minority groups in this country it is an irreparable calamity.

"Few men in public life today have been more interested in their problems, more sympathetic with their handicaps, more aroused by their sufferings from injustices and discriminations. The minorities throughout the world trusted him as they did few others and they looked on him as their most powerful champion.

"President Roosevelt loved all human beings and he was greatly loved by the vast majority of them. To him, people were human beings and his love did not go out more to the poor than to the rich, more to the weak than to the strong, more to white folks than to brown, yellow or black folks. He did know that this is one world and that world is made up by *all* the people everywhere. . . . And we always felt that he personally had not one spark of race prejudice."

Out of respect to the memory of Mr. Roosevelt the national office was closed all day April 14.

SUPPORT FOR TRUMAN: In a wire to President Harry S. Truman, the Association paid tribute to the late President Roosevelt and pledged continued support for full realization of the objectives for which Mr. Roosevelt stood.

WALTER WHITE RETURNS: After a four-months trip as New York *Post* correspondent observing the treatment and role of Negro soldiers in the Pacific, Walter White, executive secretary, has returned to this country. He arrived in San Francisco, California, April 5 in a B-24 plane after a 38½-hour trip from Australia, and he reached the New York office, Monday, April 9, in time to make a first-hand report to the board of directors meeting in the national office that same afternoon.

Since his departure from the States last December 4, Mr. White has visited Hawaii, Johnston, Kwagalein, Guam, Saipan, the Philippines, and Dutch Guinea, and has conferred with high army and navy officials.

One of Mr. White's first public statements made after his return was in the nature of a warning that the restoration of the colonial system will lead to a third world war. Americans have spent thousands of lives and billions of dollars to oust Japanese from former European colonies in the Pacific but apparently only to restore these captured islands to their former European owners. Americans, continued Mr. White, must wake up to what is actually happening in the Pacific if they want to avoid future trouble and the ill-will and anti-American feeling which the prejudices of some American white soldiers are spreading throughout this area.

COLONIAL ISSUES AT SAN FRANCISCO: The NAACP board of directors adopted a resolution on colonial issues and policy, drafted by Dr. DuBois, and sent it to Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius for consideration at the San Francisco conference April 26. Major clauses in the resolution called for "a declaration of racial equality of the great groups of mankind in international law" and for "provision against economic and governmental exploitation of colonies."

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, director of special research, and Walter White, executive secretary, are serving as consultants, designated by the State Department, at the San Francisco conference.

COLONIAL PARLEY IN NEW YORK: At the colonial conference called by Dr. DuBois in New York, April 6, representatives of more than a half million colonial peoples discussed the problems and the shaping of the new policies relative to the future status of colonies. It was evident from discussions that colonial peoples have no intention of giving up their demands for complete independence after this war.

A committee headed by Dr. DuBois drafted resolutions asking for the abolition of colonialism, the establishment of an international body to oversee the transition of peoples from colonial status to autonomy, the representation of colonial peoples on this body, and the improvement of the economic and social conditions of colonial peoples.

MORE GI CONTRIBUTIONS: We are still getting generous contributions, both in the form of gifts and membership fees, from Negro soldiers, sailors, and seabees in various parts of the world. In March the largest check ever received from a naval group, $3,136, was sent in from the 21st Special Construction Battalion. These memberships were the re-

ALBANY, GEORGIA, BRANCH OFFICERS—*Front row, left to right: M. F. Adams, secretary; Dr. J. H. Ellis, vice-president; Dr. J. P. Cheevers, president; J. H. Kimbrough, treasurer; Dr Aaron Brown, chairman of executive board; and Rev. N. B. Wright, assistant secretary. Back row, left to right: C. W. King, chairman legal redress; Rev. E. J. Grant, chairman membership committee; Mrs. T. L. Latimer, chairman entertainment committee; Mrs. Martha A. Holmes, chairman youth activities; Mrs. J. A. Lee, chairman ward organization and extension; and Dr. Edward Hamilton, chairman labor and industries.*

sult of a campaign directed by L. D. Brown, Y 2/c, chairman, and his assistants Walter Hightower, Jr., Y 3/C; P. J. Key, NAM 2/C; and S. O. Allen, BM 2/C.

This Batallion is one of the few with a mixed personnel and it has never had any serious racial disturbances. It also boasts more rated Negro personnel than any other Special Battalion.

In April the national office received contributions totaling $1,083.17 from service men in Europe and the Pacific. Enlisted men in Germany B, 384th Engr. Bn. in France gave $175; Base Company 46, Navy 167, stationed in New Guinea, sent in what it called a "small token of appreciation" in the sum of $206; soldiers of the 4093rd QM, Service Company, somewhere in Germany, as the result of a concerted drive by a four-man committee, collected $402.17 in voluntary contributions; and from the 229th Hq. QM Salvage Collecting Company somewhere overseas came $300 as an expression of their belief that "more than lip service is necessary to aid in the realization of democratic rights."

From the Southwest Pacific came $1,122 from 22nd Special USNCB, a group of Negro Seabees, as their contribution to the Willkie Memorial Building Fund. This sum includes amounts from 590 men and was collected through a committee headed by George J. Brown.

SERVICE MEN ON THE HOME FRONT: Commander J. P. McBean, from Mississippi, has been removed as commander of the 34th Seabee Battalion which went on hunger strike (see page 110 April *Crisis*) March 2-3. He has been replaced by Lt. Commander Lester M. Mars of New Jersey.

Because of the weakness of the evidence against five Great Lakes seamen convicted for attempt to incite mutiny, disobedience of lawful orders, and disrespect toward superior officers, the NAACP legal department has asked that their sentences, ranging from one to twelve years, be reduced. Of the men involved, all but one received dishonorable discharges.

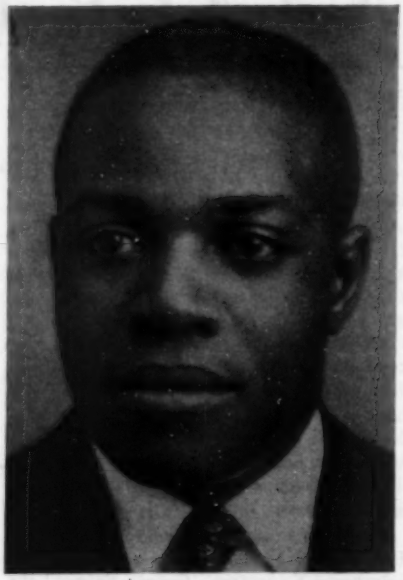
On April 3 a hearing was held before Rear Admiral F. L. Lowe and other staff officers of the U. S. Navy on the brief filed by the Association seeking to set aside the conviction of the fifty Negro seamen convicted last October of mutiny for alleged refusal to load ammunition at Mare Island depot, California.

The brief previously filed with the Judge Advocate General of the Navy pointed out the many legal grounds for reversal of the conviction. All of the points sets forth in the brief were re-emphasized by Thurgood Marshall and additional arguments were given for the reversal of the conviction. If the conviction is approved by the Judge Advocate General it will then be referred to other officers for consideration as to clemency and finally will be reviewed by Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal.

At Freeman Field, Indiana, an order was issued, supposedly by Colonel Robert Selway, Jr., barring Negro officers of the 477th Bombardment Group from an officers' club set aside for white personnel. Sixty Negro officers entered the club, and were arrested. The NAACP has pointed out that this order violates the War Department directive issued a year ago prohibiting discrimination at army posts and training facilities and asks revocation of the order. The Association has been advised that ninety men have already signified their willingness to resign commissions if separate officers' clubs are maintained.

On March 26 the Navy dismissed on a legal technicality the charges against S 1/C George Utendahl, 26th Special U. S. Naval Construction Batalion, that he had violated a station order governing censorship of information sent in personal correspondence. Seaman Utendahl, who had received an "un-

BRANCH OFFICERS



Here are two of our many zealous and efficient branch officers. George Raymond is president of the Chester, Pa., branch; and Miss Nita Blackwell is field secretary of the Los Angeles, Calif., branch.

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, PANCAS—*Panca members of the Knoxville branch responsible for 4,459 memberships. See list of Knoxville Panca members under Tennessee branch news, page 144.*

desirable discharge," wrote a letter to his wife telling of discrimination in the Navy, and it was this letter that formed the basis for the charge that Seaman Utendahl did "willfully and knowingly criticize the morale of the Armed Forces of the United States then being in a state of war."

The NAACP has asked Truman K. Gibson, Jr., civilian aide to the Secretary of War, to clarify statements attributed to him in a March 14 press conference in Rome, Italy, on the 92nd Division. The interview appeared in the New York *Times*, the New York *Herald-Tribune*, and other major papers throughout the country.

"Race has nothing whatsoever to do with a man's ability to fight," General MacArthur told Walter White when he conferred recently with the New York *Post* war correspondent in the Philippines. "Any man who says that another man's fighting ability can be measured by color is wrong," General MacArthur added.

NEW STAFF MEMBER: Leroy E. Carter of Atlanta, Ga., joined the national office staff of the NAACP April 1 as an assistant field secretary. Mr. Carter was graduated from Clark college in 1930 in business administration and worked for eleven years in the insurance field. Just before joining the NAACP he was a regional organizer for the United Office and Professional Workers, CIO. His first work with the NAACP will be as an assistant to Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary, in the membership campaign now in progress in Cincinnati, Ohio.

NEW OFFICE ON COAST: The first regional office ever established by the NAACP has been opened at 12 Geary street in the heart of downtown San Francisco. The two-room suite is in charge of Noah W. Griffin, regional director for the West Coast. Mr. Griffin, formerly a principal in Florida, has been on the national office staff for two years and went to the West Coast last November.

SALARY SUIT CASES: The suit of William J. Bolden of Birmingham, Alabama, against the school board of that city seeking equalization of the salaries of Negro and white teachers was scheduled to come to trial April 26. The case was filed March 27, 1942. Attorneys for Bolden are Arthur D. Shores of Birmingham and Thurgood Marshall of New York City, NAACP special counsel.

In the case of the salary suit filed in Cairo, Illinois, by Negro teachers asking for equal salaries, Judge Fred L. Wham on April 9 denied the motion, after hearing argument, to dismiss the suit. The school board and the superintendent had asked that the suit be thrown out. Now the school board has until May 1 to file its answer after which the case will be set for trial.

The suit is being brought by the Negro Teachers' Association of Cairo through Attorneys William H. Temple and Senator C. C. Wimbush of Chicago; David Lansden of Cairo; and Thurgood Marshall.

AWARDED SOLDIER'S MEDAL

M. Smith

Private Howard E. Ottley, of New York City, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism in the vicinity of Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, on May 23, 1944. Private Ottley and a companion saw a soldier struggling in the wake of a LCM and despite the hazard of swimming in the swirling water close to the propellers of the moving craft, they dived in and rescued the man. On May 11, 1944, Private Ottley performed an act of heroism by venturing into an intensely burning fire in an ammunition and gasoline dump in Hollandia on Beach White 1 to salvage much vital equipment. Private Ottley was formerly an employee of The Crisis *magazine.*

NAVAL BASE COMPANY CONTRIBUTES: Naval Base Company 100, somewhere in the Southwest Pacific, sent in memberships and contributions to the NAACP totaling $1,350 during the month of April. The letter accompanying the money orders stated: "As the future unfolds with its unending problems, we are confident and assured that our cause (that of the Negro) will be well represented." Wentworth Starks, BM 2/c, and Robert Lee Skinner, S 1/c, were in charge of the membership campaign.

Branch News

MARYLAND: The Baltimore branch voted to appeal the case of the Jones brothers sentenced for the murder of I. Raynor Graham, a white Deal Island oyster packer. Mere youths, Welton, eighteen, was sentenced to be hanged; and Holbrook, fourteen, given life imprisonment. After the branch heard a review of the case by NAACP counsel W. A. C. Hughes, it, along with the state conference of branches, voted to endorse the appeal.

Mr. Hughes says there is reasonable doubt concerning the guilt of the two boys, and one of them, Welton, denies that he ever signed the alleged confession bearing his signature. Holbrook, on the other hand, says he never realized what the police gave him to sign. And both have denied any knowledge of the robbery and death of Graham.

Forty churches have enrolled in the branch vote-for-victory campaign with its goal of 20,000 registered voters. Both Baptist and Methodist ministerial groups have pledged support of the campaign.

The branch membership school, directed by Edward N. Wilson of Morgan college, has opened at the Providence Baptist church and is offering courses in civics and government on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week.

OHIO: Membership drive of the Cleveland branch opened officially April 29 with a well-planned mass meeting to which all members and interested friends were invited. Campaign chairmen is Ermer L. Watson, assisted by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin from the national office.

Membership goal has been set at 15,000 members and a system of merit has been worked out to permit the giving of prizes to persons and divisions which excel in bringing in new memberships and renewals.

While formulating plans for the drive, the branch kept in mind its major purpose to bring about better and more satisfactory interracial relations in Cleveland. The branch hopes it will be able to provide the community with a fuller and a more inclusive program for the year and in order to do this wishes the cooperation and well wishes of all men and women of good will.

OREGON: Mrs. Gwendolyn Davis has been elected by the executive board as secretary of the Portland branch. Mrs. Davis was formerly active in NAACP work in the states of Rhode Island and New York.

The Portland branch tried unsuccessfully to get the state legislature to adopt a comprehensive civil rights bill drafted by its legal department, but instead did manage to get the Mahoney bill (Senate Bill No. 34) introduced. The Mahoney bill, however, was defeated in the senate by a vote of 24 to 6. The bill, introduced by Senators Thomas R. Mahoney, Lew Wallace, and Coe A. McKenna, all of Portland, would have made it a misdemeanor for operators of restaurants, hotels, hospitals, and such public places to refuse service to Negroes and other racial and religious minorities.

Opposition to the bill in committee came largely from hotel and restaurant men. Support came from the YWCA, the Oregon League of Women Voters, the Portland Presbytery, the Oregon Farmers union, the

League of Baptist Women, the Portland Council of Churches, and the Communist Political association. Rev. J. James Clow, president of the Portland branch, in testimony in favor of the bill said the measure was necessary for "good, wholesome race relations," and that its passage would "remove many race tension areas which should be removed." He also added that cases of discrimination against Negroes were observable daily in nearly every city in Oregon.

A similar bill passed by a vote of 16 to 15 in the senate in 1939 but was killed in the house. Seasoned observers who have watched and engaged in this fight over a period of years are, however, encouraged because of the vast change in public sentiment in favor of this type of legislation.

The senators voting for the bill were Ellis, Mahoney, McKenna, Moser, Wallace, and Strayer.

PENNSYLVANIA: George Raymond, new president of the Chester branch, holds down two important leaderships in his community. In addition to being president of his branch he is also head of the Lamokin Village Resident Council, an organization that has a tremendous effect upon the community and race relations.

The Philadelphia branch has urged all local branches throughout the state to give active support to the Brown bill (HR354) for a permanent state FEPC. After analyzing each of the bills introduced into the state legislature, the branch endorsed the Brown bill as the most effective measure to secure complete elimination of employment discrimination based on race, religion, color, or creed. At the same time, the branch pledged its full support to the securing of a federal permanent FEPC.

During the hearings on the bill at Harrisburg in March, three members of the Philadelphia branch, George Morriss, Alvin C. White, and Jimmy Jones, testified in favor of the bill.

The branch has also gone on record as endorsing the social and health legislation embodied in Senate bill 393. This bill would provide for the establishment of clinics in population centers where rheumatic fever is most prevalent and would allow the expenditure of two million dollars or as much as may be necessary.

Opening meeting in the membership drive of the branch, which opens May 6, will be addressed by Aubrey Williams, former head of NYA. With a goal of 5,000 set for the "kick-off" meeting, the campaign committee and workers are enthusiastically planning for the largest drive in branch history. Minimum goal for the drive is 15,000 members.

The Tiny Tot fashion show of the branch raised $2,713.12. Winner of the first prize of fifty dollars cash was William D. Turner, son of Rev. and Mrs. William D. Turner. Second prize winner was 18-months-old Anna Marie Day.

Rev. W. J. Johnson, member of the local board of directors and presiding elder of the AME church, was appointed chairman of the branch housing committee in March.

YOUNGEST NEW ORLEANS, LA., MEMBER

One-year-old Robert E. Fullilove III is shown tasting his cake on his first birthday. He is the son of Dr. Robert E. Fullilove II of New Orleans and the grandson of Dr. R. E. Fullilove of Yazoo City, Miss.

TENNESSEE: The Knoxville branch broke all records to exceed its goal for the 1945 membership campaign. Inspired by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, national field secretary under whose direction the campaign was conducted, the organization was confident of a successful drive from the beginning.

Campaign divisions were the air corps under Miss Fanny Clay, the army under Rev. A. J. Simmons, the marines under Ralph Bailey, and the navy under Mrs. Pearl E. Franklin, our acting president. Each leader, with his teams, vied with the other for the largest membership. The air crops won with the navy a close second.

BRANCH SECRETARY—*Mrs. Gwendolyn Davis is secretary of the Portland, Oregon, branch.*

Membership to date is 4,459 of which 2,936 are adult members; the other 1,523 are Knoxville youth members. One hundred fifty-two of these came from the following schools: Swift Memorial college, 71; Morristown junior college, 33; and Nelson Mary high school, 48. Total membership secured during the campaign were 4,,611, with 1,523 youth council members. Every elementary, junior, and high school in the city has applied for a charter.

Individuals who secured a hundred or more names are Rev. S. A. Downer, Charles H. Trent, Miss Fanny Clay, Mrs. Pearl E. Franklin, Mrs. S. A. Downer, Mrs. Lois H. Tinsley, Mrs. Estelle Merrifield, Rev. A. J. Simmons, Ralph Bailey, Mafison Smith, and Mrs. J. G. Beck.

Panca list for the Knoxville branch is as follows: Charles H. Trent, Rev. S. A. Downer, Mrs. Pearl E. Franklin, Miss Fanny C. Clay, Rev. A. J. Simmons, Ralph Bailey, Mrs. Lois H. Tinsley, Shirley Boyd, Mrs. Dorothy Draper, Mrs. Ruth Griffin, Mrs. M. R. Jones, Mrs. Marion Spikes, George Walker, Mrs. Hattie E. Valentine, Mrs. J. G. Beck, Mrs. Marie Nelson, Mrs. Maggie Guice, Mrs. Sally J. Carr, Mrs. J. H. Hardy, J. W. Person, Miss Lillian Cary, Miss Sara Ross, Mrs. Estelle Merrifield, C. W. Pearcy, J. C. Bussell, W. E. Fortson, Mrs. Aslee Davis, Miss Alfredda Delaney, Mrs. Julia Cody, Mrs. S. H. Hatley, Mrs. Gerleter Wright, Miss N. B. Jones, J. I. Seals, Mrs. A. S. White, Miss P. McDonald, Miss Almeda Ford, Madison Smith, Miss Edna Arter, Mrs. Esther B. Cowan, Mrs. Estelle Lannon, Mrs. Wilhelma Smith, Mrs. Rowens Hodge, Miss Ozaana Vineyard, Miss Edith Nowlin, Miss Emma T. Chairs, Mrs. Barbara Beck, Miss Bessie Brice, Mrs. E. T. Williams, C. B. Bolden, Mrs. B. H. Netherland, J. P. Owens, Mrs. Ruby Card, Mrs. Jessie Williams, C. A. Bailey, Mrs. Ruth Wright, Mrs. Hattie Arnold, Mrs. Marjorie Cannon, Mrs. Jessie Freeman, Mrs. I. K. Lewis, Mrs. Lillian Wright.

TEXAS: William Thompson, president of the Kingsville branch, has been successful in organizing a branch in Robertson. The branch has fifty-three members and regular meetings are planned for the first and third Sundays of each month. Branch officers are Rev. W. B. Hall, president; Mrs. Maggie Epps, secretary; and Hurshell Hamilton, treasurer. Rev. J. H. Mosley is chairman of the executive committee.

Youth Council News

YOUTH WEEK: More than 180 youth councils and 28 college chapters throughout the country observed NAACP Youth Week,

GALVESTON, TEXAS, YOUTH COUNCIL—*First row, left to right: Daniel Simmons, Rudolph Hall, Amos Knight; seated, William Thomas III, vice-president; Willie Mae Merritt, council president; Ada Simmons, secretary. Standing, left to right: Felix Clay, Marguirite Hathaway, Mrs. M. D. Johnson, adviser, Emma Knight, Vernice Carrington, Joyce Williams, Agnes Fanuel, Helen Green, Thelma Langham, Janie Donley, Elizabeth Knight, Ruth Langham, Viola Hutton, and Rev. P. H. Preacher. A charter was granted this council April 24, 1944, and thirty youths and three adult members made the honor roll at the Chicago national conference July, 1944.*

April 8-14, with uniform programs highlighting the various phases of youth work. Over twenty-seven thousand tags were distributed among the councils and college chapters on Willkie Memorial Day (April 9).

CAMDEN, N. J.: The Camden council celebrated National Negro Youth Week with a program centered around the theme "Unity for Peace." On Sunday, April 8, the annual sermon was preached by Rev. G. C. Hall, pastor of the Macedonia AME church, and that same afternoon there was an intercultural meet addressed by Olivia Henry of Philadelphia. On Monday, April 9, there was a broadcast over station WCAM; on Tuesday a tribute to American youth with an exhibit prepared by the Camden council and displayed at the main branch of the Free Library; Wednesday, April 11, was health night with a tuberculosis lecture and a movie, "Let My People Live." Mrs. Virginia N. Scott, health secretary of the Camden County Tuberculosis Association, delivered the health lecture and Dr. U. S. Wiggins, delivered a sex lecture. On Thursday the council presented a skit on "American Negro History;" on Friday there was an oratorical contest held at the Kaighn Avenue Baptist church. The closing program on Saturday, April 14, was Tag Day. George Lawrence is president of the council and Miss Lillian A. Goings, co-ordinator.

NATION-WIDE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN: Youth councils and college chapters are participating in the NAACP nationwide membership campaign. Washington, D. C., and Cleveland, Ohio, have set their goals at 1,000 members each. In Texas, the state conference of youth councils has set its goal as 5,000 for the state.

INVITATION FROM WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE: The youth department has received a call through American Youth for a Free World to attend a World Youth Conference to be held in London, England, provisional dates for which are August 29 and September 6, 1945. Proposed agenda for the conference is as follows: youth's fight for freedom and a better world, youth rebuilds—relief and rehabilitation, builders and citizens of the New World, and World youth cooperation and the World Youth Council. The AYFW, the coordinating organization of youth groups which issued the invitation, has asked the youth department to be represented by either a delegate or an observer at a planning meeting to be held in New York April 21-22.

NEW CHARTERS ISSUED: The following applications for charters were submitted to the Board by the youth work committee and have been approved: youth councils, Princeton, N. J., Haddonfield, N. J., Chickasha, Okla., Guthrie, Okla., Murphysboro, Ill., and Center Point, Texas. In Knoxville, Tenn., the following schools: Austin, Green, Maynard, Sam E. Hill, Heiskell, East Port, and the Nelson Mary high school, Jefferson City, Tenn.; college chapters are Morristown college, Morristown, Tenn., Swift Memorial junior college, Rogersville, Tenn., and Syracuse university, Syracuse, N. Y.

Army Game?

(*Continued from page* 140)

there is ample evidence that the die-hards still rule the roost. The discharges other than honorable which are being handed to Negroes, and the cold reception which is being given to appeals by the Board of Review in Washington are indications of the power of this group.

The encouraging difference between this and the last war is that there is a thousand times more protest against conditions, that there is more alertness and awareness among Negroes themselves, and that there is among the gold braid and brass hats a body of opinion which would cheerfully break with tradition and give the Negro a better deal.

If Negroes in uniform are not to be victims of "the old Army game" the protests and pressure must increase. Those forces within the War and Navy departments that are on the side of fair play must have support. The dissemblers, apologists, and dissenters must be exposed and opposed.

For the goal of this struggle is not merely fair treatment for the Negro fighter, but an improvement in the status of Negroes as citizens. That goal will not be realized until the inequalities and cruelties inherent in the segregated pattern are eliminated, which means that segregation itself is the target. The stubbornness of the resistance and the evasive devices employed even in the midst of a great war, suggest that the opposition realizes the stake involved. Out of this war must come more democracy for the Negro. Every effort will be made to grant him as little as possible. One of the weapons sure to be used against him is the "record" of his war services which is being manufactured for him, and the chief contributor to that "record," as has been shown, is the segregation policy. Segregation must go.

Book Reviews

REFERENCE BOOKS

***Encyclopedia of the Negro* (Preparatory Volume with Reference Lists and Reports). By W. E. B. DuBois and Guy B. Johnson. Introduction by Anson Phelps Stokes. New York: The Phelps-Stokes Fund, Inc., 1945. (Printed by H. W. Wilson Co.). 208pp. $2.75.**

***The Land Possessions of Howard University* (A Study of the Original Ownership and Extent of the Holdings of Howard University in the District of Columbia). By Beulah H. Melchor. Washington, D. C.: Published by the author, 1945. 85pp. $2.00.**

Dr. DuBois first proposed an encyclopedia of the Negro thirty-five years ago to "commemorate the jubilee of emancipation in America (1913) and the tercentenary of the landing of the Negro (1919)." This work was to have had a distinguished board of American and European advisers, but the undertaking was too vast for one man and the plan was never carried out.

Today Negro and white Americans are very much in need of an authoritative encyclopeadic work, and for several reasons. First, a vast amount of objective, authoritative material on the Negro has now accumulated but it is scattered through books and monographs and is not easily accesible to the general reading public. Secondly, standard encyclopedias and reference books are usually biased or filled with outmoded misconceptions about the Negro. And an encyclopedia of this nature is needed to help combat prejudice and superficial information with objective fact.

The projected work is going to be similar to the well-known Jewish and Catholic encyclopedias and will be devoted mainly to the American Negro with inclusion of "important related topics regarding the Negro in Africa and elsewhere."

The volume under review is merely the preparatory volume in this projected four-volume work. It consists of bibliographical reference lists and reports: an introduction by Anson Phelps-Stokes setting forth the purpose of the present volume, an article by the authors setting forth the need for an encyclopedia of the Negro, an alphabetical list with notes on major subjects, a short monograph by Dr. L. D. Reddick on library sources for Negro studies here and abroad, a bibliography of bibliographies, a memorandum on the "Encyclopedia of the Negro," and the certificate of incorporation.

One of the most valuable features of this preparatory volume for scholars, students, and serious-minded laymen is the alphabetical list of subjects dealing with aspects of Negro life in the United States, Africa, the West Indies, and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, however, poor proofreading has allowed many errors to creep into this section. Without any special search for them, this reviewer notes several. On page 30 the Haitian historian meant is surely Céligny Ardouin and not "Caligni Ardouin." Likewise the author mentioned on page 81 under Jean Francois is Ardouin and not "Ardovin." Author of *Negerplastik* listed on page 31 is Carl Einstein, not "Ernstein." Obviously the Haitian historian listed on page 112 should be Thomas Madiou, fils, and not "Thomas Madio." The introduction to "Harlem as seen by Hirschfeld" is by Saroyan (not the playwright and short story writer) instead of "Savoyan." It seems too that there should be some consistency in spelling the name of the Haitian writer and politician, Frédéric Marcelin. In some places his surname is "Marcellin" in others "Marcelin," and his given name is sometimes anglicized "Frederick." This might be confusing to a reader not familiar with this clever writer and cynical politician.

Miss Melchor's little book traces the landholdings of Howard University from the earliest years down to the present day.—She divides her book into two sections: "the first treats the original ownership of the campus and the history of the land transactions pertaining to various portions thereof from 1651 until 1943." Her purpose in the second part is threefold: (1) to account for the original ownership of the various tracts of land purchased by Howard University in numerous parts of the city; (2) to answer as near as possible the questions, what has Howard University owned and what does Howard University own? (3) and to show the relative economic and social importance of some of the sections of the city in which the University has or has had vast holdings."

Howard's present campus was originally a portion of a large Indian reservation established in Maryland in 1651 through a grant of Lord Baltimore. Later a part of this tract became a small farm, and during the Civil War it became a camp for Negro soldiers. From this camp was evolved the present campus of Howard University.

The little volume is heavily documented, has appendices and bibiliographies, and is illustrated with surveyor's maps of the various landholdings and tracts.

JAMES W. IVY

"LE PREMIER DES NOIRS"

***Citizen Toussaint.* By Ralph Korngold. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1944. XVII+ 358 pp. $3.00.**

Toussaint-Louverture is indubitably one of the great men of history. Auguste Comte, the famous French philosopher, included Toussaint with Washington, Plato, Buddha, and Charlemagne in his *Calendrier Positiviste* as among those worthy to replace the calendar saints. A free man for only some eleven years of his life his achievements are therefore all the more remarkable. He it was who really killed Napoleon's dream of empire in America, thus making possible the acquisition by the United States of the Louisiana Territory. "If the United States of America," writes Korngold, "stretches from Canada to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, some credit for this is due a member of the Negro race."

Toussaint was a great military commander, a great statesman, a great diplomat. He was humane, kind, forgiving; an affectionate

The Land Possessions of Howard University

A Study of the Original Ownership And Extent of the Landholdings Of Howard University in the District of Columbia

•

Beulah H. Melchor, B.A., M.A.

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The author traces the title to the Campus to the original grant made by Lord Baltimore in 1651 and shows that the tract was once a part of a large Indian Reservation.

The holdings of Howard University in "Mount Pleasant," "Columbia Heights," "Meridian Hill," "Ingleside," "White Haven," Northeast, Southeast and Southwest Washington are fully discussed.

The book contains a classified list of more than three hundred deeds relating to land transactions made by the Howard University.

Important surveys made for General O. O. Howard and other plots which have great historic value are presented.

The book is a result of research conducted in the office of the Land Commissioner, Annapolis, Maryland; the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D. C.; the Surveyor's Office, Washington, D. C.; The Interior Department; the Office of the U. S. Engineer; the Public Library, Washington, D. C.; The Library of Congress, and the Archives of the United States.

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father and husband; a truly noble soul.

He not only freed the slaves of Haiti, but successfully defended their emancipation against the Spanish, the British, the French. He completely defeated General Leclerc's army sent by Napoleon to subdue him. He quelled revolts of his own supporters. He defeated the mulattoes. And as dictator of Haiti, he restored order, put the former slaves to work, increased commerce, and broke down the animosities between whites and blacks.

At the outbreak of the French Revolution, Toussaint was coachman to Bayon de Libertat, manager of the Bréda plantation. During the early years of the slave revolt, he served under Jean-François, but all the time he was organizing and making preparations for the leadership he later assumed.

For a while he fought on the Spanish side, but when he heard that France had declared general emancipation in 1794 he deserted the Spanish ranks and came over to the side of the French. He expressed loyalty by turns to the French Republic, the Directory, and finally to Napoleon. He used Sonthonax to rid himself of Laveaux and then got rid of Sonthonax. He drove Hédouville and Roume, duly appointed French officials, from the island. He proclaimed a constitution while he was at the same time submitting it to Napoleon for ratification. But beneath this apparent hypocrisy and double-dealing was his eventual hope of Haitian freedom. We have hints of this in his *constitution locale* of 1801. This dream of complete independence he never realized, for he was treacherously seized by the French, transported to France, and imprisoned in the Fort de Joux near the Swiss frontier. Here he died, or was found dead, April 7, 1803.

Mr. Korngold tells the story of this man in a competent but undramatic manner, especially when we consider the almost melodramatic nature of his material. He has a flair for the facts, but is often forced to fall back upon conjecture and fancy. Since Haitian slaves lacked *d'état-civil*, there is much that we do not, and probably never will know, about Toussaint's early life. We don't even know how he acquired the sobriquet of *Louverture*.

We are not sure of the date of his birth either. Biographers have conjectured the year from 1739 to 1746. Korngold believes it was 1744. We do not even know when he died nor where he was buried.

There are a number of minor points in this otherwise admirable biography which are perhaps misleading. Our author oversimplifies vodun, a very complex religion. Nor does he consider the evidence that *creole* is perhaps a Negro coinage applied first to their own children born in the colonies. He says that Negroes were better suited to plantation work than the Indians, but fails to note that that was because they were previously familiar with such work in West Africa. He says that racial prejudice in the early colony was "supposed to have taken place" with the arrival of white women. Later on he himself admits this.

This biography while informative adds nothing to our knowledge of Toussaint not previously found in James' *Black Jacobins* or Sannon's *Toussaint-Louverture*. The vast wealth of material on Toussaint that is to be found in the French archives and in the photostats in the Congressional Library have yet to be used in a definitive biography of "the First of the Blacks."

JAMES W. IVY

Olaf's Girl Friend

(*Continued from page* 137)

sent a chill down my spine. The back of my neck felt cold and I found I was clutching my glass so tightly that my hand hurt.

Belle Rose crouched and walked forwards and started singing. It was an incantation to some far off evil gods. It didn't belong in New York. It didn't belong in any nightclub that has ever existed anywhere under the sun.

"Ah, you get your man," and then the drums. Boom. Boom. "Ah, you want a lover." Boom. Boom. Boom-de-de-boom. "Ah, I see the speer-et." And the drums again. Louder.

And she walked towards Olaf. She was standing directly in front of him. Hands outstretched. Eyes half shut. Swaying. She stopped singing and the drums kept up their message; their repeated, nerve racking message. The faces of the drummers were perfectly expressionless. Only their eyes were alive—glittering. Eyes that seemed to have a separate life from their faces.

Belle Rose went on dancing. It's a dance I've never seen done before in a nightclub. It was the devil dance—a dance that's used to exorcise an evil spirit. I don't know exactly what effect it had on Olaf. I could only conjecture. I knew he'd been on boats and ships for months trying to reach New York. The West Indian drummers told me.

He'd been tasting the salt air of the sea. Seeing nothing but water. Gone to sleep at night hearing it slap against the ship. Listened to it cascade over the decks when the seas were high. Living with it morning, noon and night. Even in port it was always there, moving against the sides of the ship.

And he hated the sea. He was afraid of it. He must have gone through hell during those months. Always that craven gnawing fear in the pit of his stomach. Always surrounded by the sea that he loathed.

And then he sees Belle Rose. She's completely unaware of him and more beautiful than ever. With artificial red on her lips and a caste mark between her eyes.

I said Barney was a showman. I suppose he thought it made the girl more exotic. As a final touch he'd had a caste mark painted on her forehead. It was done with something shiny. It may only have been a bit of tinsel—but it caught the light and glowed every time she moved.

I heard Olaf growl deep in his throat when he saw it. He'd been completely silent before. He stood up. All muscle. All brawn. All dangerous, lonely, desperate strength. He walked over the railing. Just stepped over it as though it wasn't there. And confronted her. He had a knife in his hand. I could swear, now, to this day, that he meant to kill her.

She kept right on dancing. She moved nearer to him. I say again that he meant to kill her. And I say, too, that she knew it. And she reached back into that ancient, complicated African past that belonged to both of them and invoked all the gods she knew or that she'd ever heard of.

The drums had stopped. Everything had stopped. There wasn't so much as a glass clinking or the sound of a cork pulled. It seemed to me that I had stopped breathing and that no one in the place was breathing. She began to sing in a high, shrill voice. I couldn't understand any of the words. It was the same kind of chant that a witch doctor uses when he casts a spell; the same one that the conjure women use and the obeah women.

Her voice stopped suddenly. They must have stared at each other for all of five minutes. The knife slipped out of his hand. Clinked on the floor. Suddenly he reached out and grabbed her and shook her like a dog would shake a kitten. She didn't say anything. Neither did he. And then she was in his arms and he was kissing her and putting his very heart into it.

They walked hand and hand the length of the room and out through the street door. A sigh ran around the tables.

I think Barney, the guy who owns the joint, came to first. He ran after them. And I followed him. When I reached the street he was standing at the curb raving, frothing at the mouth as he watched his biggest drawing card disappear up the street in a taxi. I could just see the red tail light turn the corner.

"That black baboon," Barney fumed. "Where in the hell did he come from?"

I started laughing and that seemed to infuriate him even more. Finally I said, "Barbados. Where Belle Rose came from. It took a long time for him to find her but I'll guarantee New York will never see her again."

I was right. She disappeared. With Olaf. I worried Elmer and Franklin and Stoner until I finally heard that they were back in Bridgetown.

You can have your choice as to why Olaf didn't kill her that night in the Conga. I like to think that when he got that close to her he remembered that he loved her and that he'd gone through hell to find her. And all he wanted was to hold her tight in his ams. After all she was very beautiful.

On the other hand, though Belle Rose's father may have been a school teacher, her grandmother was an obeah woman.

PHILIPPA ACHIEVES HIGH HONOR

THIRTEEN year old Philippa Duke Schuyler received the greatest honor of, almost a lifetime of honors, when she heard her first orchestral composition for full symphony played by the famous New York Philharmonic orchestra at Carnegie Hall, on Saturday morning, April 7th. "Manhattan Nocturne," written while Philippa was twelve and vacationing in Mexico City, expressed her homesickness for Manhattan. According to the New York *Times*, Sunday, April 8th:

"The piece was the nostalgic expression of a great city at night."

To quote further from the *Times*:

"The music, written in the traditional harmony, shows more than expert workmanship in the handling of form and orchestration; it is truly poetic, the expression of genuine feeling, a gentle, soft beauty and imagination."

The piece made its debut under the baton of Rudolph Ganz, Pres. of Chicago Musical College, concert pianist, composer and famous conductor of the Young Peoples' concerts of New York and Chicago. Philipa is now working on a scherzo for full symphony and a fugue for woodwinds. Her composition teacher is Otto Cesana, well known composer of "Negro Heaven" and arranger for Radio City Music Hall for many years. Her piano teacher is Hermann Wassermann. Her violin teacher Clarence Cameron White. Philippa has composed since she was three and had over a hundred piano compositions to her credit before she ever started formal study of theory under Mr. Cesana at the age of eleven.

Letters to the Editor

Tribute to Negro Soldiers

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRISIS:

I have just had a copy of *The Crisis* sent me by a colored boy now serving in Luxembourg, and as I read its contents it occurred to me that you might be kind enough to find room in your valuable columns to print the enclosed [a mimeographed copy of the writer's reminiscences] which I have just written. . . .

Since we English have been at war, we in this particular part of the country have had many many companies of soldiers billeted in our midst, but of them all, *none* can be compared with the colored Americans for courtesy, civility, and grateful appreciation.

MRS. BETTY TYLER

Gloucestershire, England
March 24, 1945

Excerpts from "Reminiscenses"

In her pamphlet, "Reminiscences," Mrs. Tyler describes some of the realities of war as they affect a sensitively intelligent and patriotic woman. To help companies of soldiers billeted in her village and on her estate, she turned her kitchen into a shop—"a sort of general shop," she says. At first these men were English, but later it was reported that the Americans had taken over.

"Everyone in the village was anxious—would they be white or colored Americans? All the women in the village had had drawn for them the most gruesome stories concerning the colored men, and they wondered and were afraid. If they were colored, would it be safe for the women to go outside their own doors, would they be molested if they did? I even wondered whether I should close my shop so that I could keep the door locked. However, every one decided time would tell, and that everyone in the world was entitled to a chance to prove himself."

The first company of American arrived—they were colored. "At first the women," Mrs. Tyler adds, "kept to their houses, but the children didn't. It was the children who quickly discovered what a generous, kindhearted crowd they were. The men were very fond of "the babies" as they called the children, and the evenings after they had finished work, would find them all—soldiers and kiddies—playing together, and the children munching sweets, nuts and gum which the men gave them. The soldiers on the other hand were content to be pals with "the babies" and certainly never made themselves unpleasant towards the women of the village—not speaking to anyone unless spoken to first, and always answering with the utmost respect and a face beaming with gratitude for any kindness and acknowledgment shown them."

They patronized her little store and "were so polite" that it made her feel very friendly toward them. They told her about their wives, their mothers, their sweethearts, and everything that was of interest to them.

"These boys, unused as they were to the friendship such as the English meted out to them, showed their gratitude in such a way that almost amounted to adoration. They, on the other hand, fascinated the white women, who, in turn, were unused to the charming compliments they paid them.

"After a stay of about six weeks the day of their departure came. The women stood at their gates waving them good-bye and wishing them the best of luck and felt thankful we had met them and discovered they were not the kind of men we had been told to expect."

When the next company came and they were colored, "we were not afraid to meet them."

In conclusion, Mrs. Tyler writes that she is glad she brought a little home-life into the lives of these boys, both British and American, who are so far from their homes. They write her letters from different parts of the world and she reads them with lively interest.

"I believe that to live among people is to know their worth, rather than to become prejudiced by listening to other people's opinions. . . . I am glad to have known them, glad of their co-operation, glad to know they welcome my friendship, and I

hope the friendship may not be just a wartime one. I believe that Christianity embraces all mankind alike—regardless of class, racial distinction or color."

A Thrilling Incident

To the Editor of The Crisis:

I think you will experience the same thrill that I did in hearing the following story concerning interracial relationship.

A major (name withheld) in the Medical Corps, stationed in the South Pacific area, recently returned home on leave. He stated that the GIs at his hospital were entirely devoid of interracial feeling. The colored and white patients were side by side in the wards; they attended movies arm in arm; they ate in the same mess hall; they played cards; they indulged in all sports, and they played pingpong in the Red Cross recreation room.

Not very long ago the officers of the station were called to an urgent, important, secret meeting. The Commanding Officer instructed them that the information to be divulged was secret. No word of this could be written to the States. The CO then instructed his officers that two weeks from date the colored soldiers were to be segregated from the whites. They would occupy separate wards in the hospital; they would be seated in a roped off area at the movies; they would eat at separate tables or attend mess at a different time; they would not be permitted to indulge in sport activities with the whites. The CO then asked for questions. One or two of the officers rose to ask questions of a technical nature.

The Major, about whom I speak, belongs to a minority group (Jewish) himself. He hesitated to be the first to protest. It appeared as though the meeting would be adjourned without a single protest when he rose to his feet.

He queried the CO: "Who gave this order?"

The CO answered: "I am not permitted to state, but it is an official order from a 'brass hat'."

The Major: "Is this a written or a verbal order?"

CO: "Verbal order."

Major: "How binding is a verbal order?"

CO: "It is an official order."

Major: "Since the order is official, I, as a member of the armed forces, must obey. Moreover, I am aware that I shall not be able to write this incident in a letter since it will be censored. However, I wish to inform you that I shall make every determined effort to convey this outrage to the States by every means available. I also wish to remind you that patients and friends of mine are returning shortly to the States. I shall make it my business to report this situation to every liberal newspaper and magazine in the States. Furthermore, I shall immediately ask for transfer to a zone of operation where such prejudice does not exist."

With these words he sat down, his face was scarlet, and he was boiling within.

He expected his colleagues to rise to their feet and strengthen his words. *Not one spoke.* The meeting was adjourned.

Ten days later the Commanding Officer called the Major to his office. He said. "Major, I'm sure you will be pleased to learn that the order concerning the colored men has been rescinded."

It is my opinion that this friend of mine has rendered an invaluable and commendable service.

Bernard N. E. Cohn, M.D.
Denver, Colorado
March 30, 1945

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129 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles 13
Telephone: VAndyne 1764

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3429 S. Central Ave.
Los Angeles 11
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4066 South Central Ave., Los Angeles 11
Telephone: Adams 7774

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1002 French St., Wilmington 30
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East Chicago (Direct mail to
520 East 35th St., Chicago 16)
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Michigan at Monroe Avenue, Grand Rapids
Telephone: 8-9042

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(Condensed)
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As of
December 31, 1944

ASSETS

CASH: In office and in banks and trust companies	$ 64,222.05	
Bonds and Stocks	903,035.86	
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	101,247.34	
Collateral and Policy Loans	9,048.46	
Interest and Rents Due and Accrued	10,413.84	
Net Amount of Uncollected and Deferred Premuims	9,374.48	
Real Estate	429,242.74	
GROSS ASSETS		$1,526,584.77
Assets Not Admitted		8,509.16
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS		$1,518,075.61

LIABILITIES

Reserves Required by Law (On policies in force)	$772,336.06	
Reserve for Depreciation of Assets	100,000.00	
Reserve for Estimates Policy Claims	7,608.00	
Gross Premiums Paid in Advance	21,992.96	
Other Liabilities (Employees' Deposits, Taxes, Etc.)	49,571.70	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		$ 951,508.72
Capital Paid-Up		150,000.00
Surplus		416,566.89
TOTAL		$1,518,075.61

Insurance in Force, December 31, 1944	$9,156,686.58
Total Claims Paid Policyholders to Dec. 31, 1944	$8,834,820.14

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